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Allegiances

CloudClan:

Leader: Silverstar- Silvery she-cat with blue eyes

Deputy: Brightsky- Gray-white she-cat with amber eyes

Medicine Cat: Featherpelt- Gray tom with green eyes

Apprentice: Cloverfur

Warriors:

Willowfur- Light gray tabby she-cat

Hailheart- Dark gray tom with silver patches

Peonystorm- Light gray she-cat with black tabby stripes

Apprentice: Frostpaw

Tansypool- White-gray she-cat with blue eyes

Amberclaw- White and gray tom with amber eyes

Shadowpelt- Black she-cat with amber eyes

Skypelt- Silver she-cat with blue eyes

Whiteswirl- Light gray tom with a bright white spot on his forehead

Greenflower- Black she-cat with gray paws and eyes

Apprentice: Cinderpaw

Lightningfeather- Black tom with golden eyes and pale ginger spots

Applefoot- Silver tabby she-cat with dark blue eyes

Goldleaf- Gray tom with golden eyes

Apprentices:

Cloverfur- Light gray tabby she-cat with green eyes

Frostpaw- Bright white she-cat with light blue eyes

Cinderpaw- Small light gray she-cat with blue eyes

Queens:

Snowblaze- Gray and white tabby she-cat with light amber eyes, mother of Amberclaw's kits: Gingerkit (White and silver she-cat), and Moonkit (Dark silver she-cat with green eyes)

Elders:

Windheart- Gray and white tom

Rosefoot- White she-cat with light ginger paws.

BreezeClan:

Leader: Russetstar- Dark ginger tom

Deputy: Blackspot- Brown she-cat with one black spot around her eye

Medicine Cat: Thunderfoot- Gray tom with one red-brown paw

Warriors:

Poppyheart- Ginger and white she-cat

Dapplefrost- Pale ginger tabby tom with amber eyes

Brambletail- Dark brown tabby tom with a long tail

Cherryflower- Dark ginger and light cream she-cat

Riverstorm- Black and ginger tom with green eyes

Darkfall- Black tom

Clovepelt- Dark brown she-cat with golden eyes

Apprentice: Grasspaw

Dandelionclaw- Dark cream she-cat

Queens:

Brackenpelt- Dark brown tabby she-cat, mother of Russetstar's kits: Blossomkit (gray and cream tabby she-cat), Hailkit (black tom), and Mothkit (brown-black she-cat)

Brooktail- Dark blue-gray she-cat, expecting Brambletail's kits

Elders:

Ravenclaw- Black tom

Thistletail- Dark gray tabby she-cat

HollyClan:

Leader: Leafstar- Golden tabby tom

Deputy: Flamefur- Bright ginger she-cat

Medicine Cat: Brackentail- Pretty brown she-cat

Apprentice: Yellowpaw

Warriors:

Bluepelt- Bright blue-gray tabby she-cat

Briarcloud- Golden-brown she-cat

Apprentice: Runningpaw

Pebblefall- Gray and white tabby tom

Apprentice: Dustpaw

Ashfall- Dark gray tom with blue eyes

Thornwing- Gray tom with white tabby stripes

Apprentice: Blazepaw

Sagepelt- Light gray and white tabby she-cat

Apprentice: Fernpaw

Lilytail- Golden and white she-cat with green eyes.

Nightwhisker- Golden tom with black whiskers

Marshclaw- Bright ginger and cream tom

Volefang- Black-brown tabby tom

Mousefoot- Brown and white she-cat

Queens:

Nettleswhisker- Black and gray she-cat, mother of Marshclaw's kits: Dawnkit (bright cream and gold she-cat), and Burnkit (bright ginger tom with gray eyes and black paws)

Spotstorm- Golden-spotted gray she-cat, expecting Nightwhisker's kits

Elders:

Patchleaf- Black and white tom

Pineheart- Black and gray tabby she-cat

Moorblossom- Gray she-cat with pinkish paws

FlowerClan:

Leader: Cheetahstar- Handsome brown tom

Deputy: Jayflight- Gray tabby tom with blue eyes

Medicine Cat: Budfur- Light gray tom

Warriors:

Frogfoot- Dark gray tom with a blue-gray foot

Minnowflight- Silvery-gray she-cat with amber eyes

Puddlemist- Gray and white she-cat with blue eyes

Dusktail- Black and brown tabby she-cat

Apprentice: Oakpaw

Boulderheart- White tom with a black spot on his chest

Apprentice: Mistpaw

Birchfire- Ginger and white tom with black flecks

Snakeheart- Massive dark brown tom with greasy fur

Brackenflower- Dark brown and cream she-cat

Queens:

Swiftfoot- Gray and brown tabby she-cat, mother of Boulderheart's kits: Petalkit (black and white she-cat), and Crowkit (white and gray she-cat)

Mossfrost- Silver and light gray tabby she-cat, mother of Frogfoot's kits: Orangekit (bright ginger tom, Birdkit (gray and black she-cat), and Driftkit (Light brown tabby tom)

Elders:

Wolfpelt- Light gray she-cat with white spots

Talonpelt- Dark gray tom with light gray stripes

Cats Outside the Clans:

Frost- Silver tabby she-cat with green eyes

Stanley- Calico she-cat with green eyes, kittypet

Mint- Dark brown tom with black flecks, kittypet

Hazel- Gray-brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes, kittypet

Prologue

[image]

Featherpelt huried along the trail to the Starbrook. He was late, and he probably shouldn't have come. Snowblaze had had her kits right before he left, so he had helped deliver them then left her with Cloverfur. She was a full medicine cat, so there shouldn't be any trouble.

He hurried along the beaten trail and pounded over the crest of the hill that overshadowed the quiet brook. When he looked down, he could see the other Clans looking up at him in amusement. "A little late, aren't you, Featherpelt?" Thunderfoot, the BreezeClan medicine asked, a twinkle sparkling in his brown eyes. Featherpelt smiled. "Snowblaze had her kits."

"You left them with Cloverfur?" Asked Brackentail, a pretty brown she cat, who was the medicine cat of HollyClan. Featherpelt nodded. Brackentail's apprentice, Yellowpaw, looked up at him. "I was looking forward to talking to her."

"Well, the Gathering is in half a moon," Budfur, the medicine cat of FlowerClan, pointed out. "You'll see her there."

Yellowpaw nodded. "Shall we get to sleep?" Brackentail suggested. "Yes, let's," Thunderfoot mewed, lying down on a patch of moss and dipping a paw in the water. Brackentail and Yellowpaw copied him and stretched out on some rose petals near him. They also dipped their paws in the brook. Budfur took his usual spot in a sheltering clump of ferns, and Featherpelt stepped onto a flat stone, which was still warm from the setting evening sun. He inhaled deeply, smelling the fresh, earthy scent of flowers and grass and sky, and looked at the stars reflecting in the smooth surface of the brook. He dipped his paw in the warm water, making the stars rock and shake, and fell into a deep sleep.

He was in a forest that he quickly recognized as the FlowerClan area of StarClan. There was no borders in the place of their

ancestors, but the area looked the same as it did for the Clans. He saw a silver and brown she cat approaching him. A purr rose in his throat. "Lilycloud!"

His former mentor dipped her head. "Greetings, Featherpelt. I come with a message."

"What is the message?" Asked Featherpelt confidently. He was very good at deciphering prophecies and took it in his stride. Lilycloud sent him an amused glance. "I can't tell you, for there is no words to this prophecy. You have to follow me."

Featherpelt nodded. Lilycloud turned and padded through the trees, her brown and silver tail swinging. Featherpelt followed behind her. *She's taking me to a place I've never been before,* Featherpelt realized. He started to see dawn light creeping over the horizon when Lilycloud finally stopped at a glassy pool in the midst of a ring of oak trees. "Take us to the rogue kit."

The pool, which had been reflecting the sky before, began to ripple and the water inside began to show something else other than the trees and sky. When Featherpelt stared in, he saw a silver and black tabby she cat with piercing green eyes staring at a larger cat. She was about kit age, and he guessed the larger cat was the kits' mother. They were standing before a huge lake, that seemed to be quite deep. The mother had her back to him, but he could see the kits' eyes perfectly. They were pools of leaf green and filled with a mixture of sadness and anger. "It's time for you to leave, Sun."

The kit stared at the mother in disbelief. "But... can't I stay with you?" Her voice was filled with such longing that it tore at Featherpelt's heart. "No." Sun's mother turned away, her voice had as stone. Featherpelt saw that she had the same pretty green eyes as her daughter. "But why not?" Asked Sun. "Because," The young kits' mother said, "You're... you're unnatural, Sun. There are things you can do that I don't understand, and I know I never could. I have taught you how to hunt, and you can stay by the lake. I just can't stay with you anymore."

She pushed off on long, powerful legs and ran hard, soon passing out of Featherpelt's limited range of sight. Sun watched the she cat

go, then suddenly collapsed, wailing. "Mother! Mother, come back! Please! I won't do it anymore! Just please come back!"

Featherpelt tore his gaze away from the scene in the pool. "Why?" He asked softly, his voice cracking. Lilycloud sighed. "Keep watching."

Featherpelt looked back down at the pool. Sun had stopped wailing and straightened up. Though her shoulders were hunched, she held her head high as she arched to the lake. "I don't need her!" She muttered defiantly. "I don't need anyone! I can live in the lake!"

Featherpelt narrowed his eyes. *Did she just say... live* in *the lake?*

Sun took a running start and leaped into the water, diving straight down to the bottom, scaring a school of minnows. She stayed under for a ridiculously long amount of time. Featherpelt's paws grew tired just standing there, waiting for the kit to re-amerge. He expected her to have drowned, and began to turn away. Lilycloud flicked out her tail. "No! Keep watching."

Featherpelt returned his gaze to the pool, and saw Sun swimming storngly to the surface. She sucked in a breath, then paddled to shore. She shook out her coat and looked around. Featherpelt was impressed that she wasn't exhausted. The kit didn't seem to be tired in the slightest! Featherpelt wondered how that could happen. He watched as Sun began to walk resolutely in the opposite direction of where her mother had gone. "I won't stay there.... She might come looking for me, feeling *sorry* for me! Ha! Like I would let that happen. No, I will settle far, far away... She'll see."

The pool rippled and became clear again. Featherpelt looked at Lilycloud and saw his own confusion reflected in the amber depths. "Some things even StarClan do not know," she told him before he could say a word. "I do not know where exactly that kit will end up, but it will affect the Clans in some way."

"How can she stay underwater for so long?" Featherpelt asked. "She... she is part of a prophecy," Lilycloud mewed quietly. Nobody knows the words-"

Just then, a breeze rippled through the clearing, stirring leaves on the oak tree. *"A kit shall come, with a greater destiny than any other cat. In the fight for peace and righteousness, all things shall be held in the balance, and the Clans shall be put to the test. A force is rising, worse than any other before it."*

Lilycloud looked at Featherpelt. "Well, there's your prophecy!" She mewed, purring. Featherpelt purred as well.Suddenly, he looked at the sky. It was dawn, and he started to fade. "Good bye, Lilycloud!" He called. "Bye, Featherpelt!" She called. "May StarClan light your path!"

Featherpelt woke up, and, looking around, saw that he was the last to stir. "Are you okay?" Asked Thunderfoot, catching sight of his expression. Featherpelt looked unhappy. "I'm fine. Let's start heading back. Sad dreams, that's all. Sad, sad dreams."

A/N What do you guys think? I will definitely continue this, so if you like it, vote and tell me what you think! I shall write the Allegiances now... so bye! :)

Chapter One

Sun walked along the trail through the woods, keeping close to the banks of the stream. Anywhere there was water, like a stream, or a river, or even a lake, was her home. The thick oak trees shielded her from the sun, and she felt cool and well fed. Six moons after her mother had abandoned her as a kit, she knew how to survive, and she was able to hunt and fight.

It was just passed dawn, and she had been walking along this long, winding stream for a few days. She hadn't seen other cats in moons. Ever since her mother had abandoned her, she had kept a wide berth of them. She didn't need to be left behind again. *I'm not a kit anymore.*

Suddenly, Sun stopped and opened her mouth, tasting the air. A strange scent touched her tongue, that wasn't anything like she had smelled before. And it wasn't just one cat either, it was lots of Clans. Sun felt confused. The smell was fresh and sharp, like snow. She kept walking, pasing through the stream. The smell continued until a clump of oak trees. Then a different smell made her stop. It smelled like holly and trees. The two scents met, and both continued back the way Sun had come from. She kept walking, passing over the scent line. If this was some cat's territory, what did she care? She was a loner, she could go where she pleased.

Sun was cool under the covering of pine and oak trees, and didn't notice when a rustling in the moss and ferns behind her told her of some creature moving around. If it was prey, lucky them! If it was some cat, she could fight them off.

Suddenly she tensed. Another paw crunched in a bramble near her. Another was breathing loudly, and the one she had heard before hissed, "Shush!" The whispered order was soft, but Sun could hear it just fine.

She whipped around and straed at the patch of brambles, ferns, and tall grass near her. "Come out-"

A loud yowl ripped through the air as a dark ginger tom hurtled out of the ferns and leaped onto her back, snarling. "Get out of our territory, kit!"

The other cats joined him. Sun flailed, flipping over and exposing her belly as she kicked out with her hind legs. The fist tom went flying and landed against a tree with a sickening, srunching thud. One of the cats, this one a brown and black one, tore at her stomach, and blood pooled around her on the ground. Any other normal kit would have died then.

But Sun was no normal kit.

She whipped around, standing on her hind paws and sticking out her tail for balance, raking her claws down the ginger tom's spine. "More trouble than I look, aren't I, dung-breath?"

"Cherrypelt! Help!" He yelped, and the third she cat, who was a bright ginger, thundered forward, grasping Sun's back with her paws and cuffing her hard around the ears. Sun shrieked and whirled around, slick as a viper, and clawed the she cat's eyes. She yowled and fell back. Sun looked at the she cat, then at the final tom. She lifted her chin. "Are you done, or should I continue?"

But she could feel that she was critically wounded. The tom panted, blood leaking from a gash on his side. "Leave here, kit!" He snarled. "Never come back. This is HollyClan territory."

Sun turned and bounded off through the woods, back the way she had came. HollyClan? Sure. Like she cared about some stupid *Clan's* territory.

A/N: So, a little short, eh? But I like it, it was action packed. What will happen...? I shall update *SOON!!!!!*

Chapter Two

Sun hurried back to the river she had been sheltering near for a few nights. Her kegs were weak and wobbly, and she collapsed halfway there. Feeling like she could go no further, she began to lick her wounds, focusing mainly on the belly ones. Those cats had been good fighters.

Her whole body throbbed. *I have to get in the water.* The river healed her, and it was the only place she ever felt at home. But she had to be completely in the water for it's powers to work. Sun stood up and warily looked at the river. Thankfully, it was deep. She stumbled in, not even feeling the freezing water, and dove down.

She breathed in through her nose, feeling the water slide past her lungs. She could breathe underwater. Couldn't all cats? Well, maybe not her mother. Or anyone else, Sun realized. That was why her mother had left her, wasn't it?

Sun rolled her eyes. She didn't care what her mother did. She swam around playfully, then spotted a trout and dove for it. Water came to her as easily as air. She scooped up the trout, which was resting on some pebbles, and killed it with a bite to the neck. She took it to the surface to eat, already feeling much better. She dragged herself back out of the water. Looking back, she saw the water was stained red.

Sun sat on the bank of the river and nibbled at the trout. It burst with flavor. She looked down at her belly after she had finished and saw that the wound was no more than a scar that would serve as a reminder for the remainder of her life. Energy glowed inside her. She dug a hole and buried the fish bones, then continued along the stream. She reached the HollyClan territory and stopped. There probably wouldn't be anymore patrols around this area, but still. She made a wide berth around it and the other scent and came to a scent line that smelled fluffy and damp, like clouds. She sniffed around. There was one tall tree that seemed to have been struck by lightning. It was a light red-brown color. She sniffed the air a few

times. Suddenly, he scented that snother patrol was approaching! Quickly, she darted forward to roll herself in some flowers so she wouldn't smell like another cat to them. Though she was fully healed and energized, she was wary about fighting cats here. They were very far from a source of water, so she couldn't be healed in the water.

But she was too later. A deep meow sounded over her. "What are *you* doing in CloudClan's territory?"

Quickly Sun curled up in a ball, protecting her stomach and her head. *What are you doing?!* Screamed an unknown voice in her head. *Fight them, you mouse-brain!*

"Who are you?" The cat asked. "Don't hurt me!" Sun whimpered. It was bad enough being beaten by those HollyClan cats. At the end of the day, she was still a kit. That meant she didn't have as much stamina as these fully grown cats. She still had some energy, but right now, in the light of the falling sun, the trout in the stream felt a long way away. "I won't," The strange cat promised, sounding a little confused. "I just want to kow who you are."

Sun unfolded herself and stood up, looking at the tom. He seemed to be alone, but she sniffed the air just in case. "I'm alone," He added. "I'm... I'm Sun."

He nodded. "I'm Goldleaf."

He was gray with shining golden eyes. Sun stared at him, and he added. "This is my first evening as a warrior."

Sun forced herself to nod. He seemed friendly, but she could never be sure. "Where do you live?" He asked. "All around," Sun told him. His eyes widened. "Where do you live?" Sun asked, feeling slightly self concious. "I live with my Clan, CloudClan," Goldleaf told her. Sun backed up, eyes wide. *A Clan cat!?* "Not another one!" She shrieked. "Whoa, calm down!" Goldleaf yelped as Sun turned. "Would you like to come to CloudClan?"

Sun narrowed her eyes at the handsom tom. "Why should I do that?"

"Because, the Clans are awesome!" Goldleaf exclaimed. "Everyone fights and hunts together, and-" "I can fight and hunt by myself," Sun interrupted. "Yeah, but what about if you get old or sick and can't hunt? The Clan hunts *for* you, and the medicine cat heals you."

"But I can heal myself."

"Yeah, but what happens when there's a fox attacking you when you're weak?"

"Then I run."

"You're too weak to run."

"Then I go down fighting."

Goldleaf sighed. "Yes, but in a *Clan,* you don't *have* to go down fighting! You're Clanmates come and help!"

Sun snorted. "Yeah, but then they drive out an innocent kit who accidentally wandered into your territory."

Goldleaf narrowed his eyes. "Where were you before now?" He asked.

"HollyClan." Sun spat the name. "Oh yes, they don't like newcomers," Goldleaf told her. "Thank you, Obvious-Mouse," Sun muttered. "Alright. Fine. I'll come check out this Clan. But only for a night, alright?"

"Fine!" Goldleaf said happily. "Let's go."

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Sun padded into the CloudClan camp. Goldleaf had led her through a forest of birch and maple trees. Every here and there, there were chestnut and apple trees too. It was leaf-fall, and leaves fluttered to the ground, dusting the earth with their bright hues of red and gold. Goldleaf and Sun made them crunch as they stepped over them.

Finally they made it to the Clan. It was evening, and cats were spread across the clearing. They all smelled slightly like Goldleaf. In

the center of the clearing, there was a small pile of mice and fish. Moss was spread out as nests in what seemed to be dens- under bushes, in the shadow of overhanging rocks, and in small caves. The clearing was sheltered by trees, and a tunnel of brambles, thorns, and bracken led back out into the woods. A huge pile of stones lay at the edge of the camp. Everything was dusted with leaves. A white and gray tom leaped to his feet. "Goldleaf."

"Raintail," Goldleaf said, dipping his head respectfully to the tom. "Who's this?" Raintail asked Goldleaf. "This is Sun," Goldleaf mewed. "I found her near the border with FlowerClan."

"And why is she here?"

"I'll take it from here," Mewed a silky voice. Sun whirled around to see a slender silver she cat approaching, her plumy tail high. "Silverstar," Raintail muttered, ducking his head quickly. "You invited her?" Silverstar asked. Goldleaf nodded. "Without my permission?"

"We need more warriors, Silverstar," A white she cat with amber eyes pointed out. "Yes, Brightsky, but the point is he shouldn't have told her she could join without my premission!"

Sun raised her tail defiantly. This Silverstar had a bad attitude. So what if Goldleaf had asked her to join? He hadn't even done that; all he had asked was whether she would like to stay the night. "He didn't *invite* me into the Clan!!"

All talk ceased immediately. Sun's fur grew hot with embaressment as she realized that all the heads in the clearing had turned to her. "All- all he did was ask me to stay the night!" She added. Silverstar glared at her. "What's your name?"

Sun straightened her shoulders and held her head high. "Sun."

"Do you wish to stay in the Clan?" Asked Silverstar. "I don't know," Sun replied. "Can I stay a few days and check it out?"

Since Sun had come in contact with Goldleaf and the other cats, she had started to realize how much she missed other cats' company.

That made her want to join the Clans. *Who needs my mother anyway?*

"Fine," Silverstar mewed. "Brightsky is right, we need more warriors. Come to my den and we will work on your status. How old are you?"

"Seven moons."

"Then you're an apprentice. Come on, let me teach you what an apprentice does."

She turned, and Sun followed the silver leader into her den. She felt eyes still on her, and, not being able to resit, turned around and mewed, "Show's over, folks."

Then she turned and followed Silverstar into the shadowy entrance of her den.

Chapter Three

Sun sat at the entrance of Silverstar's den. "So how does a Clan work?"

"Well, since you'd be an apprentice, you'd get a mentor, a warrior who would train you in hunting, fighting, and learning the warrior code. When you're twelve moons, you'll start to be tested on hunting and fighting, and will possibly be made a warrior," Silverstar mewed, sitting across from Sun. "When you're a warrior, you can take a mate, have kits, become a mentor, and have a chance to become Clan deputy, or even Clan *leader."*

Sun's eyes grew wide. "Okay."

"If you want to stay with the Clan for a few days, you will have to have a mentor to train you," Silverstar informed her. "Do you wish to make that commitment? You'd have to give it your all, or else you wouldn't be allowed in the Clan, like it or not."

Sun nodded. "I agree."

"Then come with me," Silverstar ordered. She stood up and pushed past Sun, stepping back into the sunlight of camp. It was so dark inside her den, Sun thought, that her nest was completely hidden in the shadows.

"All cats old enough to climb Sky Tree gather here under the Rock Pile for a Clan meeting!" Silverstar yowled, her voice ringing out clearly over the camp. Most of the cats seemed to be already in the clearing, but a two cats emerged from a den under a bush, their white and gray pelts freshly groomed. "As I'm sure most of you have noticed, Goldleaf found a rogue in our territory a few minutes ago," Silverstar began. "She has decided that she would like to stay with CloudClan for a few days to see if she would like a place in our Clan permanently. Her name is Sun."

Sun looked up at Silverstar at the sound of her name, nodding

slightly. "As she is seven moons old and therefore the appropriate age for an apprentice, she will receive a mentor. Since she is not sure she will stay forever, Sun will not take on a Clan name."

Sun breathed out. *Do you really want to do this?* She asked herself. *Yes,* she answered almost instantly. The points Goldleaf had made were sensible. Anyway, she had had enough of forever being driven out and on the move. A Clan wouldn't do that to her.

"Sun, do you agree to learn as much as you can in the days you decide to stay, and make a decision by the end of your alloted time here?"

Sun nodded. She felt a nudge at her back and a hissed, "*I do,"* from someone who sounded like Goldleaf. "I do," She hastilly ammended. Silverstar nodded approvingly. "Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your mentor. Skypelt, you are ready for your first apprentice. You will be the mentor, at least for a few days, to Sun."

"Sun! Sun! Sun!" A few cheers rose over camp, but they were mainly from Goldleaf and Silverstar and Skypelt. Sun shrank into her pelt. *Oh well. You'll* make *them respect you.*

"Come on," a light gray she cat with blue eyes said to Sun. "You need a nest. Over here."

She led her under a rock, which opened up into a tunnel. The she cat walked down with sure paws, and Sun followed with slighty less confidence. "My name's Cinderpaw," the gray she cat told her as they walked down the tunnel. "I've been an apprentice for three moons. My mentor's Greenflower. Here we are," She added, stopping as the tunnel widened into a cave. The ground was dirt, and shallow scoops in the ground with ferns and petals lining them were nests. Cinderpaw led her over to a dip near the back of the den. "Here, this could be your nest," Cinderpaw mewed. Sun nodded. "Now, are you hungry?"

"A little," Sun said. "Ok, come on and we'll get you some fresh-kill," Cinderpaw mewed. "In CloudClan, we hunt mice and fish, and the occasional bird."

"I love fish," Sun announced. "Well, you'll be happy here, there's tons of fish in greenleaf, newleaf, and leaffall. But in leafbare, the lakes and streams all freeze over, so we can't swim or hunt there. We have to rely on forest prey. Do you like to swim?"

"I love swimming, and water," Sun mewed, sighing a little with relief as she saw light at the end of the tunnel. Cinderpaw smiled. "You get used to it," She told her, referring to Sun's obvious claustrophobia. She pulled herself out of the hole and turned, waiting for Sun. Sun followed suit, and together they padded into the clearing.

Sun looked around, noticing for the first time the tiny details that made up the camp. Flowers bloomed on bushes, and petals were strewn artfully around. A sweet smell came from a cave underneathe two rocks that were propped up next to each other. Some flat stones lay all around the clearing, covered with moss and ferns. Cats lay on them, stretched out peacefully, basking. Shiny pebbles were set in haphazard piles in different places around the camp- the food pile, near bushes, and at a tunnel that led outwards. "This is the fresh kill pile," Cinderpaw announced, breaking into Sun's thoughts. Sun padded forward and picked up a fish. "Can I have this?"

Cinderpaw nodded. Sun brought it over to a corner of the camp and slipped under a bush with it to avoid attention. "Can I share with you?" Asked Cinderpaw, wriggling in after Sun. "Sure!" Sun replied, and together they ate the fish. Sun lay back, licking her lips. "You have good fish here. I had a trout this morning which wasn't nearly as good as this."

"Thanks," Cinderpaw meowed. "I think my sister Frostpaw caught this. She's that one over there, with Stonepaw."

She thrust a paw outward, pointing at a beautiful white she cat, who was sitting on a basking stone directly across from them. She was sharing it with a silver tom. "Everyone says they'll be mates," Cinderpaw mewed disgustedly, rolling her eyes. "I want to wait a while before I get a mate though."

Sun couldn't help noticing that she threw a half-glance over at a

black tom with pale ginger spots. "Who's that?" She asked, angling her ears over at the tom. "That's Lightningfeather," Cinderpaw told her. "He's been a warrior for about half a moon. He's a brilliant hunter."

Sun smiled. "So, what do when we're just sitting here? I mean, when you're done eating and whatnot."

"We go to sleep after that," Cinderpaw mewed. Sun nodded, breathing in the sweet scent of the blossoms. She'd never had a routine like this before. One of the small perks of being a rogue was that you didn't have to wait around for someone else. You could go where you wanted, when you wanted.

Sun yawned. "Well, I'm tired. Do you want to go to sleep?"

Cinderpaw nodded. "Sure. Let me just tell Frostpaw. Although," she added with distaste, "She's so wrapped up with Stonepaw that she probably won't even notice."

Cinderpaw stood up and went over to tell Frostpaw she was going to sleep, and sure enough, Frostpaw hardly nodded, her head still turned to Stonepaw. "Let's go," Cinderpaw suggested when she'd got back. "I'm tired."

She led the way to the apprentice den. Sun braced herself for the narrow tunnel and followed Cinderpaw quickly. They curled up in their respective nests, and Cinderpaw's breath slowed quickly. Sun, however, continued looking up at the ceiling.

I didn't see much, but I liked it, Sun realized. *Maybe, just maybe, I'll stay.*

Chapter Four

Sun fell asleep just after she decided she would maybe stay. Usually, she didn't dream of anything, but tonight she dreamed herself into a dark, slimy forest that stank of blood. Sun looked around nervously. The ground was squishy underpaw, and the trees went on forever, so Sun couldn't see the sky. Shrieks and yowls filled the air, coming from all over the place. *Where am I?* Sun wondered.

"This is The Dark Forest," a voice behind her growled. Sun whirled around around. A black tom with amber eyes and tufts of fur missing from his shoulder was staring at her steadily. Blood trickled down him from a deep cut in his shoulder. "Who-who are you?" Sun asked in a trembling voice. "My name is Lionscar," The tom mewed softly. "I have seen you before you joined those weak excuses for Clans. You have great fighting skill, and I was wondering whether you would like to hone them and become one of our many elite warriors."

Sun shook her head. "Cinderpaw told me that Skypelt can teach me a lot. She said her mentor was Silverstar."

"Yes, but we can teach you even more in the ways of a warrior," Lionscar told her. "Well... no, I don't want to," Sun said stubbornly. She didn't know why, but something in her told her not to trust this tom. "Where'd you get that wound?" She asked, trying to redirect his attention from her. It worked, and Blackscar looked down at his shoulder, his eyes widening in surprise as if he hadn't noticed the wound. "I got it during training."

"You train with claws *unsheathed?"* Sun asked in shock. "Yes," Lionscar said simply, as if she should've known alredy. "Don't *all* the Clans train like that?"

"I-I don't know," Sun admitted. "I've never had a training session before."

"Well, how about just one basic move," Lionscar coaxed. "We can even fight with claws sheathed, if you like."

Sun hesitated, then nodded. *What harm can it do?* She told herself firmly. *He said it's basic, and we can fight with claws sheathed. Tomorrow I won't dream of here again.*

She looked back at Lionscar "Alright. What do I do?" She asked. "Watch," Lionscar ordered. "I'm going to attack that piece of moss."

He flicked his tail towards a slimy, grayish piece of moss. Sun nodded, trying to ignore the disgusting piece of moss. Lionscar crouched low, shoulderblades almost touching the ground, and moved forward, fast as a snake, and flipped the moss over. If the moss was a cat, he was slashig their belly very hard. His claws were still sheathed, but by the time he had stepped back the moss was in pieces. He stepped back and nodded at Sun. "Now, try it on me. Claws sheathed." The last bit was added in a slight sneer. Sun nodded, pressing herself to the ground, then darted forward, crashing into Lionscar. He didn't move. Sun backed up and tried again. He still refused to move. He looked down at her, purring slightly. "Are you ready yet?"

"I already did it!" Sun insisted. "But you didn't move...."

"That's because you hit me with your head. Try hitting me with your body," Lionscar ordered. Sun nodded and backed up once more, pressing herself to the ground then hitting Lionscar's injured shoulder with hers. He fell back, but she grabbed him and flipped him over. She began pummeling her paws into his stomach without mercy. Lionscar shook her off. "Good job. Remember to have one paw on my throat to stop me from moving."

Sun nodded. Suddenly she noticed that she was feeling lighter. "It's time for you to go back," Lionscar told her. She nodded. "How?"

"Just close your eyes," Lionscar instructed. Sun did as she was told and felt like she was falling asleep. When she opened her eyes, she was back in the apprentice den.

"Sun! Time to get up!" Came a bright, cheery voice. Sun blinked,

nodded, and sat up, feeling tired. *I suppose my mind is just playing tricks on me. There's no way I could have done that, and still feel tired in the morning.*

Sun looked over at Skypelt, who had called her. The silver she cat was standing at the mouth of the tunnel. Frostpaw, Stonepaw, and Cinderpaw were already gone. Sun stood up and padded up to Skypelt. The silver she cat's eyes were a brilliant blue. "So, what are we doing today?"

"Hunting, then a break, then border patrol," Skypelt told her. "But first we can have something to eat. Come on, we need to stock up as much prey as possible before leafbare gets here. Only eat fish, we can't store those, and we can store other prey."

Sun nodded. "Let's go." She stifled a yawn, feeling tired. "Oh wait! I almost forgot," Skypelt yelped when they reached the middle of camp. "I have to give you a tour of the territory. Of course," She added as an afterthough, "You've already seen some of it haven't you? Oh well, you'll learn about it!"

She skipped out of the camp. Sun noticed the sky was a bright blue and it was late morning. She resolved to wake up earlier. If she could just get that tiredness out of her fur!

First, Skypelt brought her to the HollyClan border. "See this river? The border is on the other side. This is where we'll come to hunt," She added. "Do you know how to hunt in shallow rivers?"

Sun shook her head. She always dived for her prey. "Alright, I'll teach you during our hunting lesson," Skypelt told her. "I'm assuming you know in deep water?"

Sun nodded. "I like swimming."

"Me too," Skypelt mewed, smiling. "There's a pretty small lake in our territory, near the mountains. It's kind of chilly, but I like that. Also, there's deep pools and rivers we can swim in."

Sun nodded again. "That smell is HollyClan," Skypelt mewed, waving her tail at the border. The terrain could not have been more

different than CloudClan's- while the trees were bare here, thick, dark pines grew close together almost immediatly on the other side of the river. The sky was almost completely hidden. "Let's move on," Skypelt suggested, following the bubbling river. Sun yawned. They started to enter a meadowy area, with wild flowers growing. There weren't too many, since it was leaffall, but the sun shone down bright. The dense trees began to thin out till all Sun could see were rolling meadows and the bright hues of flowers. The air smelled sweet from the many flowers. "This is FlowerClan territory," Skypelt mewed. "There's tons of flowers, and the founder of the Clan was named Flower, so she decided to make it the Clan name."

Skypelt turned to leave. Sun wondered why her mentor had told their history, but so little about them. However, she followed her mentor back into the forest, looking back over her shoulder. A patrol of three cats was standing on a hill. All Sun could see of them was their figures. She turned and hurried to catch up with Skypelt.

"Be careful around here," Skypelt cautioned as she began walking slightly slower and more careful. "There's a-"

She stopped abruptly, both in walking and in her sentence. Sun almost crashed into her, but held back and stepped around her to see what she had stopped at. A sheer drop to a dark cave was what she was staring at. "This is where the evil are said to be sent after they die," Skypelt murmured. "It's a series of tunnels, like rabbit burrows, that go very deep. It's a treacherous journey, and very few survive."

Sun nodded, not really understanding anything about this 'survivng' business. Weren't the cats already dead?

Skypelt continued on, stepping around the cave and walking forward. Sun noticed the ground becoming springier, marshier beneath her paws. All was quiet in the woods. Sun sniffed, and smelled CloudClan. "There's a CloudClan patrol up ahead," Sun mewed. Skypelt nodded. "Good job."

Sun purred happily. "Hey Skypelt," She mewed. "I was wondering- how come the trees have no leaves?"

"I'm not really sure," Skypelt meowed, sounding puzzled. "I was told that we like to see the sky and the clouds and whatnot, but we could still do that with leaves. StarClan knows, when it's raining, I can do with some leaves to hide under. The only leafy trees are the maples near camp."

Sun nodded and they continued on, passing the patrol, who they called a greeting to. They nodded back, and Sun and Skypelt continued until they came to a long, winding brook. "Look," Skypelt ordered. Sun looked across to a marshland- a marshland with no trees! "Why are there no trees?" Sun asked curiously. "I have no idea," Skypelt admitted. "It seems the Clans don't do trees around here. But this is BreezeClan. We have a truce with them right now, but they have a very strong leader: Russetstar."

"Are we ready to go back, then?" Skypelt asked. "Yes," Sun mewed. "Don't forget that you promised to how me that lake."

"Wow, my paws are falling off!" Skypelt exclamied, half teasing, hald serious. "I suppose you can keep going because of your travels as a rogue."

Sun nodded. They continued back to camp, chatting about the training they wanted to do, and prey. Every time Skypelt asked about Sun's family, she redirected the conversation to what they had been talking about before, promising, "I'll tell you later." She didn't, though, because she didn't want anyone to know about her... ability.

When the maples finally came into view, Skypelt brought her around the camp, heading towards the jagged mountains that stood out on the sky. Sun looked at the actual sun and realized that it was afternoon. She was beginning to feel hungry. Skypelt brought her forward, then turned, heading into a forest of oak, apple, and pine trees Sun had not noticed before. They wound they're way through the dense trees until they emerged into a clearing. In the clearing was the purest, prettiest lake Sun had ever seen. True, it wasn't the largest, but it was so clean that she could see the bottom, and the minnows that raced by. It was the perfect depth for swimming, and the sunlight shone down on it, making it dazzling. Sun yearned to swim in it, but she knew they had to get back to camp. *Soon, soon,*

she promised the lake. "Come on," Skypelt mewed finally, turning and heading back to camp. Sun threw one last, longing look over her shoulder, then hurried off to catch up to Skypelt.

So what do you think? Nothing too too exciting except for that *Dark Forest* visit, but... also, again, I'm sorry about the slow updates! I have camp and can't do my scribblings. I should be able to update more on the weekends, but I don't know... anyways. Thanks for all the votes, everyone! I have decided to dedicate the chapter to someone who says something supportive, or points a mistake out to me but then says, "I really loved this bit when..." So, read, and tell me what you think! Thanks!

Chapter Five

Note: This may be a little shorter than usual because I'm tired, and also I'm typing it on my iPad not PC like I usually do.... So let's see what happens!

Sun hurried after Skypelt. "Ok, Sun, do you remember what we're doing next?" Asked Skypelt, stopping right outside the camp entrance. Sun thought back. "I think you said... hunting practice?"

Skypelt nodded. "Good job. Then we'll come back, eat, and have the border patrol. Come on, we're going to hunt at that river I showed you. You know, the HollyClan border?"

Sun trotted after her mentor, weaving through the trees until they came to he HollyClan border. "Ok, Sun, here's how you hunt for the fish," Skypelt began, sitting down on the bank of the river. Sun copied her. "Sit back, so that you can still see, but your shadow doesn't fall on the water."

Sun leaned back, just able to see the water. "Ok. Now you wait for a fish to come by," Skypelt murmured. Together, they stared intently at the river. Suddenly, quick as a flash of lightning, Skypelt slammed her paw into the river, hooking a fat silver fish out gracefully. She leaned over it and killed it with a bite to the neck. She shook her paw, scattering droplets of water everywhere. "Now you try."

Sun nodded and peered at the water. "No, lean back so your shadow doesn't fall on the water," Skypelt reminded her softly. Sun leaned back a bit, stopping when Skypelt mewed, "Perfect."

Suddenly she saw a fish! She flashed her paw in, just as Skypelt had done. The plump, silver fish flashed onto the banks and Sun leaned down, killing it with a sharp nip to the neck. "Good job!" Skypelt praised. Sun glowed inside with happiness. *I really like Skypelt! Just another reason why I should stay!*

They continued hunting until they decided to go back, around evening. Sun's stomach grumbled. "Alright, here's what you have to do when you get back," Skypelt mewed when the ring if maple trees came into view. "First, you have to make sure that the queens, kits, and elders are fed. Then you may choose something from the fresh kill pile and eat. Remember, only fish because we need to stock up on forest prey for leafbare."

"What do I do then?" Asked Sun, feeling a little worried. "Wait for the evening patrol to be called," Skypelt instructed. "Ok. And Skypelt? Can we do some battle training too?"

Skypelt hesitated. "It's alright if you don't want to," Sun mewed hastily. "No, we can probably fit one in," Skypelt decided. "If we eat quick."

Sun nodded happily and followed Skypelt into the camp. They padded to the fresh kill pile and dropped their catches on the fresh kill pile. Sun had caught three fish and a trout. Then Sun remembered what Skypelt had said. "Skypelt, where's the elder's den?"

Skypelt purred and pointed with her tail to a flower bush with thick, shiny leaves. "Under there. And the nursery is under that ivy-covered pile of rocks."

Sun nodded and first went to the nursery. "Hello?"

"Hello!" Came a cheerful voice. "Are you this new former loner every cat's talking about?"

Sun slipped under the rock and looked around, her eyes adjusting to the dim light. After some looking, her eyes finally latched onto a snowy white she cat, with two little kits. "I brought you a fish," Sun mewed, passing it to the queen. "Thank you, dear!" She said happily. "My name is Snowblaze, and you must be this new cat everyone's talking about!"

Sun felt her fur crawl. She hadn't realized everyone had been talking about her! "Yeah..." She mumbled. "And these are my kits," Snowblaze mewed, standing up and sweeping her bright white tail

to two small figures that Sun realized weren't smaller rocks, but actually bright-eyed kits. They scampered over. "This is Gingerkit," Snowblaze meowed grandly, resting her tail gently on a white and silver she cat. Gingerkit looked up at her, eyes wide. "Where did you come from?"

The other kit sniffed her. "She doesn't smell like CloudClan," she remarked suspiciously. "That's because I used to be a loner," Sun explained. "Moonkit!" Snowblaze admonished, eyes wide with shock. "I'm sorry Sun, she's not usually like this."

"That's ok," Sun mewed. The kits were lucky to have a mother. For all Sun cared, Frost was dead.

"Do you eat fresh kill yet?" Asked Sun. The kits shook their heads. "Alright then. Bye," Sun mewed, slipping out of the den. She still had a trout and a few minnows. She padded to the bush and slipped under. "Hello!"

"What do you want?" Called a grumpy voice. The light in the elder's den was much better, and Sun could see a gray and white tom in a nest next to a beautiful white she cat with rose-tipped paws. "I-I brought you a fish," Sun said uncertainly. The tom groaned. "Oh no, not another apprentice! Back when Scalepaw was an apprentice, my my, she brought us the WORST thorny bedding you could imagine! And the tick removals! Disgraceful. Eventually she died of greencough, and good riddance I say! Back in my day, why-"

As the tom continued ranting, Sun looked at the she cat uncertainly and padded over. "Ignore him," she whispered. "He's madder than a fox in a fit. Always has been."

Sun nodded. "I'm Rosefoot," the she cat mewed in a normal voice. "That's Windheart."

The tom inclined his head. "Um, I have fish for you..." Sun repeated. "I'll have the smaller one," Windheart said at once. "She has given more to the Clan, she deserves more."

Rosefoot rolled her eyes and took the plump fish Sun passed her. Windheart began to bite into his trout at once after Sun gave it to

him. She backed out of the den and turned, padding back to the clearing.

Uurgh sorry guys. I know this is super confusing, but this is gonna be a new chapter, if that makes sense. I don't know, I'm tired. It's been a long week.

Thanks though for the votes and comments you guys have been leaving! I find myself staying up late at night to write this, so I'll try to get more done in the morning. Btw, I might actually publish something like this when I get older as a warriors fan fic, so you guys have read it first! 😊

Again, sorry about the confusion. I have a lot to do and a short amount of time to write, so I will try to write it on my computer more so I don't have to publish it in the middle of a sentence like I have been doing lately.

Well, I hope you liked the chapter! I've really started to grow and learn to love Wattpad and everything about it! Now, I better stop typing before I get all cheesy, so... BYE! 🐯🐯

Chapter Six

"Sun! Are you ready for that battle training now?"

Skypelt's mew came from behind Sun. Sun whipped around. "Um, just let me eat, I've been giving Snowblaze and Gingerkit and Moonkit food, as well as Windheart and Rosefoot and I haven't had a chance to eat yet...."

Skypelt smiled, following her apprentice as she hurried to the fresh kill pile. "So you've met Windheart? Or," She added, lowering her voice, "As everyone else calls him, Windbrain the crazy."

Sun purred, chose a couple of minnows, and ate them quickly. The sweet flavor was that of the river, and was unlike anything Sun had ever tasted. She stood up, burying the bones, and mewed, "Let's go."She followed Skypelt out of the camp. Skypelt led her to a hollow in the middle of several oak trees that were, of course, leafless.

Skypelt padded to the center of the hollow. "Now, as you were a former loner, you must have some fighting skills. The best way to assess them is for you to attack me. Claws sheathed. Ready... go!"

Sun instantly darted over to Skypelt, remembering the move Lionscar had taught her the night before. She got under her mentor and surged up, deciding on the spot to change the move so that she could do it a different way. Skypelt flipped over and landed on her back, but before Sun could leap on her, she gave a vicious twist of her back, righting herself and springing forward onto Sun. She landed on her apprentice's back and Sun felt her weight puhing her to the ground. Quickly, Sun pushed upwards, throwing Skypelt off of her back. She darted in, aiming a blow at her paw, but then squirmed underneath Skypelt. Skypelt dropped, crushing Sun to the earth. *I'll be crushed!* Sun thought in a panic. Thinking fast, she flipped over and reached with her hind legs, using all her strength to hurl Skypelt off. She stood up and saw Skypelt lying at the base of a tree, eyes shut, and not moving.

Sun rushed over. "Skypelt! Are you okay?"

Skypelt slowly opened one eye, then the other, then stood, testing her weight on her paws. "Yeah, I'm fine, she muttered. Then she stood straighter. "Only hurt for a heartbeat. Great job! You know some very advanced attacks for someone of your age. I especially liked that move at the beginning. But do you know where you went wrong?"

Sun nodded. "Yeah, when I went under you."

"Next time, go around me, then you will be able to-"

Skypelt was cut off as a loud screech sounded from the camp. Skypelt tore off at once, Sun on her tail. They got to the camp in record time, and were greeted by a light gray tabby she cat standing in the middle of the clearing. Her back was to them. "That's Willowfur!" Skypelt whispered. Not many warriors were in camp, but Goldleaf hurried from the warrior den, along with Lightningfeather. Silverstar was watching from the Rock Pile.

"HollyClan attacked us!" Willowfur mewed wildly. "It was just me, Raintail, and Whiteswirl, and Stonepaw of course. But suddenly the whole of HollyClan sprang out of nowhere and attacked!"

"Everybody, come!" Silverstar yowled, leaping down gracefully from the Rock Pile. "Including you, Sun. Lightningfeather, guard the camp. Now, show us the way!"

Willowfur whirled around and took off counding through the trees. The remaining members f CloudClan followed after. Sun puffed as she fought to keep up with Skypelt and a white apprentice who she remembered as Cinderpaw's littermate, Frostpaw. Willowfur led them towards the HollyClan border. Screeches and yowls filled the air. "CloudClan, attack!" Silverstar yowled, leaping onto a huge ginger tom.

Sun flew into battle, landing on a golden brown she cat. The she cat bucked, but Sun dug her claws in tight, digging into her skin. She began to rake the she cat with her hind paws. She screamed with pain and rolled over, crushing Sun to the ground. *Rat dung!* Thought

Sun. Quickly remembering the kick she had used on Skypelt only a few minutes ago, she threw the she cat off, aiming for a tree across the river that marked the border. She fell slightly short, however, and the she cat landed in the river. With a yowl, she hopped out of the river and ran away into the trees.

Looking around, she didn't notice the tom behind her. A gray and brown pelt flashed at the corner of her eye, and then she and a smaller tom were locked in battle. Sun reared onto her hind paws, aiming a blow to his head but then dropping down and biting viciously on his paw. He howled with pain and shook her off, clawing mercilessly at her ears. A sharp pain stung on Sun's right ear, but she didn't miss a beat, darting under him and surging upward. He flew off back into the fray.

Sun scrambled up a nearby tree, thinking hard. *Maybe I can drop down and land on their backs!* She thought. When she reached a high enough branch, she looked down, gazing at the fighting cats. Silverstar had a golden tom locked in combat, swiping swiftly at his muzzle. A light gray and white she cat from CloudClan who Sun didn't know yet threw off a dark gray tom with blue eyes. It looked like they were winning, but for one spot: Frostpaw was flailing her paws helplessly against two heavyset tom warriors. Growling deep in her throat, Sun leaped forward and landed neatly on the tom's back. She clawed at his back, then sprang up when she felt him try to roll over. She landed on the ground next to him and raked his belly. He slashed her muzzle quickly, and Sun pulled back, face stinging. She quickly leaped back into the fight though, attacking the tom, fueled by rage, while he did his best to fend off her blows.

"Stop!" Came a yowl. Silverstar had mimicked Sun, bounding up a tree and looking down at the two fighting Clans. Her eyes burned with anger, and Sun was glad that the anger wasn't directed at her. "What were you *thinking,* attacking a patrol of four cats?!" She spat at the tom, who bowed his head in shame. "We-we... there has been CloudClan scent on our side of the border! And one of your apprentices crossed our border yesterday!"

"That was Sun!" Goldleaf called out helpfully. "She didn't know, and that's no excuse for attacking!"

"Be quiet, Goldleaf!" Silverstar growled. "But he's correct. Sun had no idea of the boundaries."

"Who's Sun?" Some HollyClan cat called out. "Sun is a former loner one of our warriors found," Silverstar informed them. "And she had been attacked by *you!"*

How did she know that? Sun wondered, but then decided Goldleaf must have told her. "Go back to your camp!" Silverstar ordered, breaking into Sun's thoughts. "We have beaten you today. Leave."

She turned to go, but a stricken yowl stopped her. "Raintail! No!"

It was Willowfur. Sun wormed her way through the CloudClan cats and saw a body stretched out on the ground, blood pooling from a deep wound in his neck.

So, how was that? Told you I'd update more on the weekends! I might be able to update later tonight, because I'm going to a sleepover and will most likely wake up at about fourish. I can't sleep on the floor :)

Anyway, thanks for all the support guys! You really are great readers. A special shout out to eaglepaw54, who always reads my chapters right after they come out. WarriorCatFanForever too. Thanks everyone!

Chapter Seven

"We don't have to sit vigil for Raintail," Cinderpaw whispered to Sun as they padded into camp. "We didn't know him that well."

Sun nodded. "Still, we should probably say good bye. He was a good warrior, right?"

Cinderpaw dipped her head. "That he was. Come on, after his body's cleaned and laid out and after Silverstar announces his death. The we can go to bed."

Sun nodded and padded away to a basking stone. She just felt like being alone. She curled up, facing out, and peering through the trees. What was beyond those trees? The lake? The mountains?

She heard the soft crunching of leaves behind her, and didn't stir as Goldleaf climbed up on the stone beside her, curling up and facing out like her. "He was my father, you know."

Sun looked at him, surprised. "Why aren't you over there, waiting for his body?"

He shifted uncomfortably. "Because we're friends, and you seemed...upset. Why?"

His question was so simple, yet Sun didn't know how to answer it. "I...I don't know. I feel responsible, because at one point I climbed up a tree and watched the whole battle. I could have jumped in to help Raintail. But I didn't."

"I saw you jump into battle and save Frostpaw," Goldleaf said firmly. "Anyway, I don't want to talk about this anymore. Do you want to-"

He stopped. Sun looked at him, and he bit his lip and looked at his paws. "What?" Asked Sun. "Do you want to... go down to the lake behind camp later?"

"Tonight?"

"No, tomorrow morning. After you train."

"Ok, sure," Sun agreed. A strange feeling stirred in her belly. "It'll be fun. Do you swim?"

"I love to."

"So do I," Sun mewed, purring. Just then, a loud yowl called from the Rock Pile. "Let all cats old enough to climb Sky Tree gather beneath the Rock Pile for a Clan meeting!"

Every cat was in the clearing, but they turned to Silverstar. Sun and Goldleaf turned on their rock. "As you all know, HollyClan attacked us. Raintail died nobly fighting Cherryflower and will be remembered in StarClan forevermore."

"Raintail! Raintail! Raintail!" The Clan cheered as Silverstar leaped down gracefully from the Rock Pile and settled herself next to the fallen warrior. Sun hopped off of the rock, nodding to Goldleaf, then ran to find Cinderpaw. She could feel his golden eyes burning into her back as she located her friend. "Let's go," she mewed as soon as she found her. Cinderpaw nodded, and together they padded up to the fallen warrior, who Featherpelt had been spreading herbs on as Silverstar had talked.

"Good bye, Raintail," Cinderpaw mewed softly, pressing her nose into the fallen warrior's fur. "You were a great warrior."

"Good bye," Sun echoed. She didn't know much about Raintail, but she decided he had to be quite a good warrior- and father. "I didn't know you very well, but you must have been a brilliant warrior and father, and mentor."

Sun stepped back and turned to go to the apprentice den, but Featherpelt called, "Sun! Cinderpaw!"

"What?" Asked Cinderpaw. "I need to treat your wounds," Featherpelt explained. "Come here. Cloverfur, you can help Cinderpaw."

He nodded at a light gray tabby she cat next to him. She beckoned to Cinderpaw wi her tail, and they disappeared into the den. Featherpelt brought her into the den, squeezing under the two rocks.

It was cool and shady in the little cave beyond. A small, lightly trickling pool was in one corner, and a tunnel led off to somewhere Sun couldn't see. The air smelled simultaneously sweet like flowers and sharp, like frost. A dim light shone down through a hole in the ceiling, and a row of nests lay in dips in the ground at the back wall. Two nests lay farther off; Sun thought they might be Cloverfur and Featherpelt's nests.

Featherpelt looked her over. "I must say, you came out quite well for your first battle against trained warriors," he remarked as he padded around her. Sun nodded. "I had a few battles as a rogue."

"You must have," Featherpelt mewed. "You only have one deep wound, right here on your flank. Your ear will need looking at too. But you stopped bleeding fairly quickly, do that's good. Wait here."

He turned and padded into the tunnel. Sun stayed where she was. He returned a heartbeat later win his jaws full of herbs. He began to chew up a poultice of three herbs, and then licked it onto Sun's flank wound. She hissed when the pain from the wound mingled with the sharp sting of the poultice. Featherpelt wrapped some sticky cobwebs around it. Then he moved onto her ear. He chewed up another few leaves, and licked them on. They stung even more than the flank wound ones had. Sun bit her tongue in an effort to not cry out. The stinging finally stopped and she stepped back, dipping her head to Featherpelt. "Thanks," she muttered, before she sprang out and hurried towards the apprentice den.

Sorry guys... I know this isn't my greatest chapter ever... But I'm at a sleepover, it's exactly 1:10 AM, and I have a baseball thing for karate in a few hours. I'm really tired and have a headache. So yeah. Anyway.

I'll try to update something later today but I don't know if I will... I'll most likely be catching up on sleep that I missed 🐱.

Anyway. I really should get to sleep. Sorry about the super short length. I was originally going to put some Lionscar stuff in, but I'm just too tired. So. That will have to wait.

But about the book- has anyone noticed any Clan similarities with CloudClan and HollyClan? HollyClan is pretty obvious, CloudClan... not so much. (You can combine Clans to get the character right.) I will announce what it is in the next chapter. Also, notice anything going on between Goldleaf and Sun...? You'll notice a she cat named Applefoot in the next few chapters... there will be some drama after Applefoot finds out what Sun and Goldleaf are going to be going tomorrow!

Anyways, like I said, it's pretty late, for me at least. It's 1:15. Good night!

Ps Thanks for all the votes and comments! I need to start putting up goals... TOMORROW! If you want to see them they will be in my description. And I'm actually having problems typing and keeping my eyes open at the moment, so. Nigth night!

Yeah. I lied. No goals, because I'm too lazy to do them. Sorry! Bye!

Chapter Eight

Sun curled up in her nest and shut her eyes, instantly breathing slower and falling asleep. The battle had exhausted her, as had her training with Lionscar in that dark forest. When she closed her eyes, she expected to not dream at all, or dream her way into Lionscar's forest. She was wrong on both accounts. When she opened her eyes, she was in a forest of willow trees, sunshine dappling the ground. The air was sweet smelling, and when sun looked up, stars shone high in the dark blue sky. "Hello, Sun," a quiet voice said behind her. Sun turned around. Raintail was standing behind her. "Raintail," Sun breathed. "What-what is this place?"

"This is StarClan," Raintail told her. "It's where good fallen warriors go."

A different voice spoke. Sun looked around, and suddenly saw pretty she cat, with different shades of gray and silver dappling her coat. "Who are you?" Asked Sun to the she cat. "I am Doveheart," the she cat said. "And I-we come with a warning."

"What's the warning?" Asked Sun. Doveheart sighed. "I'll tell her," she mewed to Raintail, then turned back to Sun. "Walk with me."

They padded away through the willow trees, occasionally coming across a cherry blossom tree, in silence. Then Doveheart turned to Sun. "Do you know who Lionscar is?"

"He's a dead warrior, isn't he?" Sun asked, frowning slightly. "He is," Doveheart agreed. "But he was an evil cat. Evil."

"What did he do?" Asked Sun. Doveheart sighed again. "In the Clans, there is a code called the Warrior Code. One of the rules in he Code is that we may not train kits until they are six moons old. Lionscar was the deputy of a former leader named Petalstar. Poor Petalstar was old, confused. Lionscar was someone who she trusted more than anyone, as her deputy, and her mate. Yet Lionscar betrayed her, by telling her to train kits when they were four moons old, and

made them warriors at seven. Most didn't survive that long.

"He also killed many warriors to be powerful, finally making his way to deputy. He even killed his medicine cat, and his daughter. Me."

Sun felt her eyes widen. "Why?"

"I have no idea," Doveheart mewed sadly. "I never thought I'd be betrayed by my own father."

"So, you want to warm me of Lionscar?" Sun asked. Doveheart nodded. "He's crafty. He'll be able to pull you in, you watch."

She began to fade. "Be strong, Sun!" She yowled. "Be strong!"

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Sun ran into camp, the sun shining down on her fur. Her jaws were filled with fish, as she and Skypelt had just run down to the lake behind the camp and dove for trout. Sun had even managed to catch a carp. Skypelt was trotting behind her. "Sun!" Goldleaf called as she padded into camp. Sun dropped her fish and hurried over to the tom. "Hi!"

"Are you ready to go hunting now?" Asked Goldleaf. Sun looked at Skypelt for permission. "Go ahead," Skypelt mewed, then added, "Have fun."

Sun nodded, smiling, and padded out of the camp with Goldleaf by her side. They walked in silence for a few minutes, until Sun looked at Goldleaf. "Who was your mentor?"

Just like that, they began chattering like birds. They didn't stop until the reached the lake. Goldleaf stared down apprehensively. "What?" Asked Sun, diving in and resurfacing. "I don't know if I mentioned this," Goldleaf muttered through clenched teeth. "But I don't like swimming."

Sun let out a "mrrow" of laughter and lunged forward, wrapping her paws around his foreleg, and tugged him in. Goldleaf bobbed to the surface, sputtering. "Why you little-"

Sun darted off, purring loudly, as Goldleaf swam unevenly behind her. "Come on!" She called. "How did you become a warrior?"

Goldleaf growled playfully. "I'll show you my warrior skills!" He dove down to the bottom and scooped a trout off the floor of the lake. He resurfaced, killed it with a nip to the neck, and dropped it on the banks of the lake.

Sun swam under him, taking his tail in her teeth and pulling gently. Goldleaf whipped around, dove under, and started paddling towards her. She swam swiftly to the other side of the lake. "You'll never catch me!" She yowled, clinging to the wall playfully.

Later, when Sun started to feel hungry and cold, she pulled herself out of the water and blinked at Goldleaf, who had clamebered out long before her. They had caught minnows, fish, and some carp somehow. It was a wonder that the prey wasn't scared off, Sun thought, what with all the splashing they were doing.

"Are you going to stay in the Clan?" Goldleaf asked unexpectedly a few heartbeats later after Sun had shook out her fur and sat down next to him. Sun turned to face him, frowning slightly. "I don't know."

Yet what else *could* she return to? Her mother, Frost, was gone to her, and how could she leave Cinderpaw, Skypelt, and Goldleaf? She had only known them for a few days, but already she didn't want to leave them.

But why wouldn't she stay as a loner? As a loner, she didn't have to stay confined to one territory- she could always move if she needed to. In a Clan, she couldn't do that. And she didn't have to wait until elders were fed, or queens and kits. She could eat whenever she wanted.

But could she really leave the Clans, and all the friends she had made? *Wait,* she thought. *There has been enemies too.*

HollyClan, for sure. And Silverstar had never exactly been nice to her, or Stonepaw or Frostpaw. If she stayed in the Clan, she would have to put up with them for as long as they and she stayed alive.

Yet as she looked at the calm water of the lake, surrounded by pine trees, she felt a strange sense creep over her. Like safety. Peace. Tranquility.

She looked up at Goldleaf and took a deep breath, her mind made up. "I will stay."

So how'd you like it? :D

I've been recieving a lot of positive response from this book, which is awesome. I do, however, have a teensy-weensy problem:

I have no time to write other books.

So, what I'm going to do, because my other Warriors book, Fireblaze, needs to be updated soon and I don't have anything written down, I'm going to alternate days on which to write. So, I might not update for about 2-3 days at a time. Hopefully it'll get better when school starts back up, but I'm not sure. I heard that they give you a lot more homework in sixth grade. Then again, my mom said the same thing about fifth grade. That didn't happen.

I hope thing's will get better, but as I said, I don't know. I wish I could devote more time to this, but my schedule is jam-packed. I play clarinet, but I get a little break- I only have to practice it three days a week.

Anyway. Sorry for the bad news. I'll try to update as much as possible, but I don't want to rush things and make it bad. So sit tight guys, and maybe try out The Unknown Threat series by CrazystarThunderClan.

^ ^

(= = = =)

meow.

(Yes I just failed at making a cat face.

DON'T JUDGE XD)

AHHHH!

No, this is not an update. But.

Thank you everyone for 100 votes! Aahh! I know they're not all on this book, but still YAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Peaches.

Sorry!

Hi guys! There is something wrong with my internet on my PC, so I can't update Dark Whispers till tomorrow morning. :(sorry. I would email it to myself but my PC is shut down and it will take forever to wake up and stuff, and it's just too much work. I'll try to update early, but I might sleep late. Again, sorry!

••Rainfeather••

(Oh, and btw, I'm writing this on my iPad. So Yeah, I can't update till tomorrow. Sorry (again)!)

OMBRBOG

Ok first- That means ***Oh My Big Random Balls Of Guacamole.*** Here's why I'm sayin' it-

I GOT 200 VIEWS!!! I'M GONNA SCREAM "PEACHES!" THEN DIE!!!!! 🕭🕭🕭🕭🕭🕭

Thanks to everyone who has been reading this. You're all so awesome, and... SCRUMPADOCIOUS!! (Dictionary meaning- A word that means epic, awesome, incredible, brilliant, sweet, kind, wonderful, fantastic times 700, and more!!! Unicorns) Seriously, thank you for taking me to this huge landmark guys! 😊😊 ***This is making me so happy.... YAY!!!***

Sorry about the updates! Wattpad has started to really not like me at the moment, and it keeps deleting everything. I apologize deeply. I will push out an update probably in 20 minutes.

Thanks!

Oh yeah, I will just call myself Rainfeather from now on. It is my username. And my FD character!

Chapter Nine

Goldleaf and Sun padded into the camp. Sun's nose was filed with the delicious, watery scent of fish, but she was lost in thought about what she had just promised. *"I will stay."* Did she mean that? She decided she did. She imagined herself growing up in the Clan, taking a mate, defending her Clan against the other Clans, training an apprentice, becoming deputy, and eventually leader. That was the kind of life she wanted.

Sun and Goldleaf parted at the fresh kill pile, putting their fish down, then taking one back to eat. "See you!" Sun mewed cheerfully, skipping away, feeling oddly light. She had a grin on her face as she made her way over to Cinderpaw, who was stretched out near the flower bush where they had sat on her first day in the Clan. "So, when are the kits coming?" Cinderpaw asked instead of greeting Sun as soon as she sat down. Sun looked at her in confusion. "Kits? What?"

"Everyone knows Goldleaf is in *loove* with you, and you him!" Cinderpaw mewed loudly. Sun slapped her plumy tail across her mouth. "No he is not in *love* with me!" She hissed quietly. "And not so loud! I don't need rumors about me. I'm being talked about enough as it is anyway."

Cinderpaw rolled her eyes, but dropped the matter. Sun dropped her tail and changed the subject quickly. "So, I decided I'm going to join the Clan."

Cinderpaw's eyes grew wide. "You are?" Her voice emanated with happiness. "Really? That's excellent! I don't have many friends, really. My only friends are Goldleaf and Lightningfeather. But StarClan, I *hate* Lightningfeather's sister, Applefoot."

"Who's Applefoot?" Sun asked with interest. "See that cat over there, talking to Goldleaf?" Cinderpaw asked, her voice lowering abruptly. "The silver tabby?"

Sun nodded, spying a pretty she cat talking to Goldleaf. "That's Applefoot. She's annoying, snobby, and gets whatever she wants because she's Silverstar's kit. Silverstar doesn't like Lightningfeather much, but she *loves* Applefoot. And Applefoot has a major crush on Goldleaf. And, as you and he just proved, he has a crush on you. He loves you as much as I hate minnows, which is a lot.

"And," Cinderpaw added. "If Applefoot finds out about Goldleaf's *feelings* for you, then bad things will happen to you."

"Sure," Sun scoffed. "It's true," Cinderpaw assured her. "There was this apprentice, Moonpaw? Really pretty, really nice. Goldleaf, Goldpaw at the time, liked her. Applefoot, or Applepaw, then, found out. The next day, Moonpaw's body was found in the woods."

Sun sucked in her breath. "Really?"

"Yes," Cinderpaw said. "They found fox scent on her, but I know the truth. You know how I know?"

"How?"

"Moonpaw was my sister."

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When Sun woke the next morning, she remembered that she wanted to join CloudClan. She hadn't told Cinderpaw yet, or anyone except for Goldleaf. *I hope he didn't tell anyone.*

She padded from the apprentice den, yawning, and saw that it was dawn. Most cats were in the clearing, including Frostpaw, Goldleaf, and a white she cat Sun recognized as Brightsky. She was standing on a stone that jutted out slightly on the Rock Pile, calling names. "Whiteswirl, Lightningfeather, and Amberclaw, border patrol along BreezeClan and FlowerClan," Brightsky ordered. The three toms padded out, led by a light gray tom with a white spot on his forehead. "Greenflower, Peonystorm, Frostpaw and Goldleaf, wake up Cinderpaw, and do a border patrol along HollyClan border. Be careful, and then hunt in the forest."

Greenflower, a gray she cat with black spots, nodded and padded into the apprentice den. Silverstar came out of the cave underneath the Rock Pile, and stretched. *Should I ask her?* Sun wondered. Then she decided this would be the best opportunity to talk to Silverstar, so she cautiously approached the silver she cat. "Silverstar?"

"Oh, hello, Sun. What is it?" Silverstar asked. She put down the four minnows she had picked up to eat. "I've-I've, um," Sun stuttered. Suddenly she couldn't get the words out. She took a deep breath and forced it out. "Sorry. I've decided I want to join CloudClan. If that's all right," she added hastilly. Silverstar dipped her head to the nervous she cat. "We'll have the ceremony at sunset."

Sun nodded. "Thank you!"

Silverstar copied her, nodding. She turned, and Brightsky called, "Skypelt, take Sun and Applefoot on a hunting patrol. The rest of you, stay here and guard the camp. I will go out hunting by myself."

"Good morning, Sun!" Skypelt chirped, padding over to Sun. "You know Applefoot?"

Sun noticed the silver she cat standing just behind Skypelt. "N-no," She mewed. "I'm Applefoot," Applefoot announced. "Goldleaf's *best friend."*

Sun nodded slightly. "Let's go," Skypelt suggested, seeing the tension between Sun and Applefoot. She turned and padded out of camp, Applefoot, to Sun's relief, taking up the rear. They stopped when they got to a tree that was so tall, Sun had to crane her neck to look up at it. It seemed to pierce the clouds, and no other trees surrounded it. "This is Sky Tree," Skypelt mewed. "It's not too hard to climb, but that's not what CloudClan cats normally do. I'll teach you to climb that soon. Now, I'm guessing you're not the most experienced forest hunter?"

Sun shook her head. She had stuck to fishing unless she had to catch forest prey. Applefoot snorted. Skypelt shot her a look. "As I remember, you weren't a particularly good hunter anywhere, Applefoot. Sun is an excellent swimmer, and fisher. Stop."

Applefoot growled, then stepped back. "Sun, the first thing you need to know about catching mice is that you have to step lightly. They can sense vibrations through the ground. And you need the correct stance. Try it."

Sun sank into a crouch, tucking her legs underneath her, and slid forward. Applefoot sneered. "No, no, no! That's completely wrong."

Sun sat up, glaring at her. "If you're not going to be helpful, why don't you just leave?"

Applefoot glared at her. "How dare-"

Skypelt slapped a paw on the ground. "Applefoot! Sun! Stop acting like kits. Sun, don't loose your temper, although she's right, Applefoot. She's only learning."

Both Sun and Applefoot slunk back, Applefoot still glaring at Sun. The rest of the lesson passed smoothly, but Sun couldn't concentrate. When they padded back to camp, she had only managed to catch one mouse.

"Remember, stay downwind, and step lightly, and you'll be fine, Sun," Skypelt said when they got back to camp. Sun felt a little sorry for the she cat. It couldn't be easy to be caught in the middle of her and Applefoot. The sun was high in the sky.

"You can rest for a few minutes, Sun, then we'll go back out," Skypelt told her. Sun nodded and padded to the bush she and Cinderpaw sat in often now, lying down and watching the camp, concealed from Applefoot by the wilting pink and gold blossoms.

FINALLY! I'm really sorry I didn't update sooner, guys. As most of you know, I had some problems with my Wattpad. This is the best copy though, so I'm saving it to my computer. I tried to make it eventful and good for you guys, as a "Sorry!"

Well, what do you think of the chapter? Applefoot = EVIL!!!!!!!!!!!! Or is that just me...? :) Who do you guys like more, Sun or Skypelt? It's a hard decision, but I do like Skypelt slightly more. :)

Well, thanks for sticking with this even though I had annoying Wattpad problems!

~Rainfeather

Chapter Ten

Sun slipped out from underneath the bush a few heartbeats later and padded over to Skypelt. "What are we doing now?"

"I was thinking battle training," Skypelt said. "And then we can finish with a border patrol."

"Sounds good," Sun said, so they padded out into the leafless forest. "I'm going to show you where we do battle training," Skypelt announced. She led Sun through some trees until they came to an open clearing, trees stretching high in a ing around it.

"Now, since you were a loner, I'm guessing you know how to fight," Skypelt said. Sun nodded wordlessly. "Well, you don't know the Clan ways. Attack me."

Sun blinked and rushed forward, leaping onto Skypelt's back. Skypelt rolled over. Sun went was crushed beneath her weight.

"When you leap on some cat, it's important to make sure you've swept their legs out from underneath them first," Skypelt explained. "And don't forget, if you can't knock out their legs, jump on their backs and whack them in the head, then jump back and attack their tail. It'll make them dizzy and confused.

"Try those on me," Skypelt urged. "In what order?" Sun asked. Skypelt flicked her tail. "Doesn't matter."

Sun nodded and tried to imagine her mentor as Lionscar. The tom was a great fighter, and she knew he would be waiting to trick her. She decided to try the leg sweeping move first, and looked up at Skypelt's head, but then shot forward and crashed into her legs with all her force. Skypelt buckled, and Sun darted back, jumped on her back, and gently hit her with her forepaw. Then she hopped off, allowing Skypelt to get up, and nipped her tail. Skypelt whirled around and snarled, then relaxed. "Sorry, I got a bit carried away there."

Sun nodded, out of breath. They kept fighting until sunset, when Skypelt looked up at the sky. "Oh, we had better get back if we want to do that border patrol!"

They headed back to camp, Sun sweaty and exhausted. Skypelt went right up to Brightsky, who was sitting on the jutting-out rock. "Can we go on a border patrol?"

Brightsky nodded. "Join that one with Greenflower and Whiteswirl."

Skypelt nodded and walked back over to Sun, who was staring longingly at the fresh kill pile. "We can eat when we get back. Right now, we're going to go on a border patrol with Greenflower, and Whiteswirl."

She nodded towards the gray tom from earlier and the black she cat with gray spots who Sun remembered was Cinderpaw's mentor. "Is Cinderpaw coming too?"

"No," Skypelt mewed. "She's had a surprise hunting assessment, and she's still out. Let's go."

They padded over to Greenflower and Whiteswirl. "Are you guys joining?" Greenflower asked. "Yes," Skypelt answered. "Let's go, then," Whiteswirl said. His voice was quiet and deep. "Yes, let's," Greenflower said. "Shouldn't you be watching Cinderpaw's assessment?" Sun asked. Greenflower nodded. "I was. But then I took a break to go on this patrol. It won't take long."

Sun nodded and the patrol continued in silence. "We're going along BreezeClan and HollyClan," was the next thing that was said, by Whiteswirl to Skypelt. Skypelt nodded and dipped her head. They reached the border with HollyClan first, and Sun felt anger burning in her as she looked at the not-quite faded blood that stained the ground still. That was Rainfur's blood. This was where he had died.

Skypelt noticed where Sun was staring and brushed up against her comfortingly. "It's okay. No, it's not okay. But no's not the time for revenge."

Sun nodded tortuously, turned, and marked a tree with scent. She

was pleased to smell the scent, because it smelled like CloudClan. *Making me smell like one of them.*

They continued on after Whiteswirl had finished marking a stone. When they started to see the marshland area of BreezeClan, they sped up. Sun stopped when she heard a vole rustling in some leaves near them. She hissed a little. "Sun? What's-" Skypelt started, but Sun held up her tail and she stopped. Sun dropped into a crouch and, stepping lightly, stalked the vole. She leaped upon it. It let out a shriek as she ended its' life, leaves flying everywhere. Sun trotted back with the vole in her jaws. "Good catch," Greenflower purred admiringly. "Let's mark the border."

They sprayed their scent on the border, which was a line of slender trees and treacherous-looking rocks. "Come on, let's go back. Bring that vole, Sun," Greenflower said. Sun picked up her vole, which she had placed on the ground, and followed after them. She was feeling tired by the time they got back to the Clan. They padded in.

"You can choose omething from the fresh kill pile now," Skypelt told Sun. "Not that vole. Older forest prey, and fish."

Sun nodded and looked through the pile, from which Greenflower and Whiteswirl had already chosen, and selected a squirrel. She carried it over to the flower bush, where Cinderpaw was sitting. "Hi!"

"Hello," said Cinderpaw. "What's up?"

"Nothing," Sun said. She glanced at the Rock Pile and saw Silverstar mounting the big stone heap. "All cats old enough to climb Sky Tree gather here for a Clan meeting!"

"I wonder what this is about?" Cinderpaw murured as they stood up and calmly joined the crowd. "Sun the loner has decided to join the Clan," Silverstar began. "*You did?!"* Cinderpaw whisper-shouted in Sun's ear. Sun nodded with a huge grin plastered across her face. "Sun, please step forward."

Sun stepped forward. "Warriors of StarClan! I call upon you to look down about this loner. Guide her in her journey to becoming a

warrior and becoming truly one of us. Sun, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Sunpaw. May StarClan light your journey in becoming a warrior. Skypelt will continue to be your mentor."

Sun stepped up to Skypelt, who was sitting close to the Rock Pile and wearing a stunned expression. "Sunpaw! Sunpaw! Sunpaw!" The Clan cheered, and Sunpaw felt warmth deep inside of her.

That feeling disappeared as the stars disappeared from the sky and the moon went behind a thick black cloud. A chilling wind ripped through the clearing, and a loud voice yowled, "*A pool of sun will glow and light the Clans from within, and the gold, the cinders, and the lightning shall rise as the apple casts a dark glow on the Clans. The sun will die and the apple shall rule all as the Clans are thrust into an unending darkness."*

So how was the cliffhanger? *waggles eyebrows* Thanks for all the reads and votes guys! I have to go back to camp tomorrow sadly, so I might not update for a while. If you're stuck for something to read, check out:

@Kaylin_WC

@_Elaina_

@_Woodspryte_

@CrazystarThunderClan

@WarriorCatFan4Ever

@Swift_Jay

@Luk3Ride

@eaglepaw54

And @Firestar4Ever!

They are all fantabulous authors so you should read their stuff! See you!

Chapter Eleven

Sunpaw shivered as the stars began to return to the sky one by one, their light dim. Cinderpaw pressed against her, the two friends sharing each other's warmth as the cloud that hid the moon floated on. Suddenly, with a loud clap of thunder, lightning flashed in the sky.

"Clan dismissed!" Silverstar shrieked as rain began to pour down, stinging every cat's pelt. "Come on!" Cinderpaw called to Sunpaw over the pounding of the rain. Sunpaw nodded, and followed Cinderpaw's just visible pelt through the rain. Stonepaw and Frostpaw were just on their tails. Sunpaw wriggled her body under the rock, pushing herself into the dimly lit tunnel, shaking out her pelt and not noticing the discomfort she felt when she walked down the narrow tunnel.

Sunpaw curled up in her nest instantly, falling asleep just as soon as she lay her head down, wrapping her tail over her nose. She opened her eyes in the forest of blood. *Oh, not again!*

"Yes, again!" Came an unhappy mutter from behind her. Sunpaw spun around and saw the black tom with crystal eyes, his pelt blending in perfectly with the shadows so that his eyes were the only thing visible. "Lionscar."

"Sunpaw." Lionscar returned the greeting. "How did you know my new name?" Sunpaw asked curiously. Lionscar smiled indulgently. "We can see things that happen down in the Clans. That's how I know what just happened."

Sunpaw felt her eyes widen. "What was that yowling thing about?"

Lionscar shook his head, eyes trained on the slimy ground. "I don't know."

"What is this place?" Sunpaw asked. She looked around in the forest. The trees blocked out all light from the sky, a they reached

so high, leaves so thick and dark that not even the faintest, strongest bit of sun or moonlight could poke through and light the forest. The rank scent of blood hung forever in the air, making Sunpaw wrinkle her nostrils. The ground was boggy, squishy and hot under her paws. She shivered.

"You can think about it later," Lionscar urged, breaking into her thoughts. "Let's work on training."

"But I don't want to work on training," Sunpaw protested, yawning. "I'm tired. Plus, I trained all day yesterday. Or today. I don't know."

Lionscar rolled his eyes. "Come on, just one little move? Please?"

Sunpaw sighed. "Fine."

"Show me that move we worked on the last time," Lionscar ordered. "I saw you do it in the battle with HollyClan, but I want to be sure that you've got it."

Sunpaw nodded, and dropped into a crouch, keeping low. She bunched her muscles, and sprang forward, grabbing Lionscar and attempting to flip him over. He stayed where he was though. Sunpaw darted back and, thinking fast, leaped forward and knocked him off his paw, crashing into him with her head. Ignoring the pain that came from hitting pure muscle, she flipped him over onto his back and jumped onto his belly, keeping her claws sheathed but slamming them down on his stomach. Lionscar growled and bucked once, throwing Sunpaw off. She landed on her back but twisted, knowing that he would land on her stomach half a heartbeat later. She rolled out of the way just in time.

Lionscar planted a paw down on her ear, making it ring. She snarled and wrenched it out of his grasp, and sot over to his tail, unsheathing her claws and scoring them down his tail again and again. Lionscar jerked his tail back and rolled onto his stomach, reaching out and slashing Sunpaw's legs. When Sunpaw instinctively dropped down to stop her legs, Lionscar rammed a paw into her head, making her fall back. He planted a paw on her chest. "Never," He growled, "Leave your head open to attack."

Sunpaw nodded weakly. Lionscar let his paw up. "Go back to your nest," He ordered. "And come back more ready to train tomorrow!"

Sun shut her eyes and when she opened them, she was in her nest. It was dawn, and she was exhausted.

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"Sunpaw!" Cinderpaw mewed loudly. "Time to get up!"

Sunpaw groaned and opened her eyes. She had managed to get a small about of sleep, and she had trouble keeping her eyes open as she dragged herself after her friend.

The brisk morning air woke her up, and she tugged a carp from the top of the frsh kill pile. "Share?" She asked, padding up to Cinderpaw. Her friend's eyes lit up at the sight of the fish. "Naturally!"

They ate the carp. "Lightningfeather, Greenflower, Cinderpaw, Skypelt, and Sunpaw, dawn patrol," Brightsky said. Lightningfeather, standing across the clearing, nodded, and walked over to Cinderpaw and Sunpaw. "Hello. You heard what we have to do?"

Although he was speaking to both of them, Lightningfeather looked directly at Cinderpaw. Her eyes widened, and when she spoke, her voice trembled. "Y-Yeah."

"I'll go get Greenflower and Skypelt," Sunpaw volunteered quickly. Cinderpaw nodded vaguely, still staring at Lightningfeather. Sunpaw rolled her eyes and padded into the warrior's den. *Their worse than Frostpaw and Stonepaw!*

"Skypelt," Sunpaw whispered in the sleeping warrior's ear. "Yes?" Skypelt mewed, jerking awake. Sunpaw took a step back. "We have dawn patrol."

"Oh, okay," Skypelt mewed, nodding, and Sunpaw saw her get up and step around sleeping warriors out of the corner of her eye.

Next, she woke Greenflower and they padded out together. Thankfully, Cinderpaw and Lightnigfeather had stopped staring at each other and were talking easily near the camp entrance. Skypelt led the patrol and it padded out.

"There's a weird smell here," Lightningfeather announced when they reached Sky Tree. Skypelt nodded. "And look, it's like someone made a nest here."

Sunpaw sniffed the air. The scent was vaguely familiar, but she couldn't place it. "Well, we'd better report this to Silverstar," Lightningfeather decided. "Yeah, come on back," Greenflower said. The patrol padded back to camp. It was only then that Sunpaw remembered what the scent was like-

It smelled like Frost. It smelled like her mother.

Hey everyone! Yeah, an awesome cliffhanger! Woohoo! Sorry if I'm not updating as frequently as I used to, I'm busier and can't write at night. :(So. Also, please excuse any spelling/ gramatical errors, or point them out to me I don't care. Just do it nice, or... yeah.

Well, that's all I have to say. Bye!

~Rainfeather

Chapter Twelve

Sunpaw stretched as she woke at dawn. The den was empty except for Frostpaw, who was staring at her impatiently. "Come on already!" She ordered. "You're going to sleep the entire day away! I'm sure you could sleep for however long you wanted when you were a loner, but now you're a Clan cat! So hurry. Up!"

Sunpaw rolled her eyes and got out of her nest. *Frostpaw has no idea what it was like as a loner,* she thought. *Fighting for every last morsel of prey, left at four moons by your mother, chased out of every bit of land by bigger cats- the Clan is leisure compared to that.*

Frostpaw turned and stalked out of the den. Sunpaw followed after, and saw that there was almost no cats in the clearing. Skypelt and Peonystorm hurried over. "Finally, you're up," Peonystorm snapped. "We were waiting."

Skypelt laid her tail soothingly on the younger warriors' shoulders to calm her. "You two can relax for a while," She told Frostpaw and Sunpaw. "We're going to do a battle training session later, but that's not until noon."

"Well, you can relax after you clean out the elders' bedding and do their ticks," Peonystorm added. "Go on! Hop to it."

Frostpaw rolled her eyes and turned, padding to the medicine den. "You can eat first!" Skypelt called. Frostpaw didn't turn to the fresh kill pile, but Sunpaw, belly growling, quickly ran over and snapped up a minnow. The small, fleshy fish did virtually nothing to soothe her growling belly, but she had to catch up with Frostpaw. She hurried forward.

"Featherpelt! Cloverfur!" She called. A light gray tabby she cat with green eyes padded out from the shadows and called, "What is it?"

"We need mouse bile," Frostpaw explained. The she cat nodded and walked off the way she came, her tail swishing behind her. She

reappeared a moment later, a stick poking into some foul-smelling moss clutched in her mouth. She passed the stick to Frostpaw and turned to Sunpaw. "This is mouse bile. Be sure to clean your paws in moving water when you're done. *Don't* lick yourself."

Sunpaw nodded. "We also need moss," Frostpaw added, voice slightly muffled due to the stick. "Around the back," The she cat replied. "Okay. Thanks, Cloverfur," Frostpaw said. "Yeah, thanks," Sunpaw echoed. Cloverfur nodded and padded away.

Frostpaw led Sunpaw around the medicine den where indeed there were thick clumps of moss growth on the maple trees. They reached up and clawed chunks down, then headed to the elder's den. "Rosefoot, we need you to move," Frostpaw said in a lofty voice. "We're going to change you're bedding."

Rosefoot nodded and got out of her nest. Sunpaw set down her moss and realized that Wimdheart wasn't in the den. "Where's Windheart?" She asked Rosefoot.

"He's out taking a walk," Rosefoot explained. Sunpaw nodded and began helping Frostpaw take out the moss from her nest. When they finished, there was a big pile of moss lying near the entrance. Rosefoot had clambered into Windheart's still-empty nest and fallen into a light doze. Frostpaw turned to Sunpaw. "Take these out to the forest. Bury them. I'll do Windheart's."

Although Frostpaw didn't seem to like Sunpaw, she seemed determined to be fair. Sunpaw nodded and grabbed the moss in her jaws and carried them out of camp. The hungry feeling in her belly was gently intensifying and the sun was high in the sky as she buried the soiled pieces. She went back to find Rosefoot gone from the den too. "Where's Rosefoot?" She asked Frostpaw.

The white she cat waved her tail back out of the den. "She went to find Windheart. He's still not back from his walk."

Sunpaw nodded, accepting the answer, and began pulling the moss out of Windheart's nest. Frostpaw stayed where she was. Sunpaw looked over her shoulder. "Well, come on, aren't you going to-"

Frostpaw cut her off. "Where did you come from?"

Sunpaw turned around, eyes wide with shock, and blinked in surprise. Then she snapped out of it and said coldly, "That's none of your business."

"We're supposed to be Clanmates now," Frostpaw shot back. "Clanmates don't have secrets."

"Well your certainly showing that with Stonepaw!" Sunpaw retorted. Her powers flashed into her mind, but she pushed them away. The had to stay secret. "Anyway, Clanmates have a right to privacy. And this. Is. Private!"

She turned and stalked out of the den, not caring where she went or who saw her. She stormed into the forest and didn't stop until she reached Sky Tree. *She has no idea,* she fumed. *No idea at all.*

Behind her, a twig cracked. Sunpaw didn't notice till a voice said, "What do we have here?"

Yay, cliffhanger! Yeah, go check out my message board, I'm sending a message to all followers. Thanks!

So how's you like the chapter 😏😏 how rude, Frostpaw! That cat might kill Sunpaw... though I don't think any of you know who it might be. Comment below who you think! I want to see :D

Thanks everyone! See you!

~Rainfeather

Chapter Thirteen

[image]

Frost grinned nervously.

Sunpaw roared. "What are *you* doing here?!"

Frost winced. "Uh..."

Sunpaw leaped forward and clawed Frost mercilessly. "No! Sun!" Frost growled, reaching up and flipping her daughter over and placing a paw on her daughter's chest, claws sheathed. "I- I don't want to hurt you-"

Sunpaw threw off her mother with an almighty heave. "Don't come any close to me!" She screeched. Frost pushed herself to her paws and stumbled backwards. Hurt glistened in her green eyes. "Sun, I- I can explain-"

Sunpaw cut her off angrily. "My name is Sun*paw.* Get it right!"

Frost stomped forward, now angry. Sunpaw held her ground, looking up at the cat she despised, her mother with no fear in her gaze. "Ever since you left me, left me for the *dead,* I've been able to make my own way. I don't need you. I've joined one of the Clans of cats. This is my territory, and we don't like intrudors."

Though she was explaing something, her voice held a sharp malice that she had never used before. She smirked to herself. *I can be dangerous. I have a power.*

Frost took another hesitant step forward. "Sun, I... ever since I left you, I knew I'd made a mistake. I tried to track you down, and... here I am."

She smiled slightly, raising her tail hopefully. Sunpaw spat derisively. "Why would I want anything to do with *you?* Go away Frost, and stay away."

Sunpaw's mother blinked in hurt. Sunpaw raised her chin at the cat she hated, the cat who had taught her to hunt, who had given her milk, who had- *no, stop.*

"Leave my territory. Now!" Sunpaw ordered, charging towards Frost. Anger coursed through her. Frost turned and fled, but Sunpaw chased after her, determined to be rid of the cat she despised. After quite a few strides, they came to a pond. It was a large pond, wide and deep. Sunpaw knew Frost was no swimmer, but the silver tabby she cat threw herself into the pond and started swimming ferociously, battling through the water clumsily. Sunpaw laughed mechanically and dove in too.

She opened her eyes under the water and swam gracefully, pushing through the water with her paws, bending it, weaving it, changing it to her will. She was gaining on Frost. The water slipped in and out of her nostrils. How ironic it was, she thought, that she was chasing Frost down using the very ability that Frost had abandoned her for. As that thought struck her, she slowed. *No, no chase her away!* he reminded herself, and swam more powerfully.

Frost pulled herself out of the pond and shook herself briefly. Sunpaw watched as the silver she cat hared away, moving gracefully. She turned and swam back, the water easily moving through her body, and, breathing heavily, decided to hunt. She padded back to Sky Tree and sniffed the air. *Mouse!* She dropped into a crouch, pinpointing the scent, and stalked forward. Leaping, she caught the mouse. It let out a shriek as she killed it.

Suddenly, Sunpaw remembered that she was supposed to be changing the elder's bedding. She rolled her eyes and headed back to camp.

Frostpaw was still in the elders' den. A few more cats had returned, but the Clan was still not full as it usually was in evenings. Sunpaw quickly dropped the mouse on the fresh kill pile and, thinking quickly, hurried off to grab some moss. That was she could try to fool Frostpaw.

The white she cat swished her tail in acknowledgement of Sunpaw's return, but didn't say anything. "Hello," Rosefoot greeted cheerfully.

Sunpaw smiled at the she cat, who was lying in a spare nest. She and Frostpaw worked silently until they were done. "Are you hungry?" Frostpaw asked Rosefoot when they had finished changing the bedding. "Yes, dear, a trout would be lovely, if there is any," Rosefoot replied dreamily. Frostpaw departed to go get the trout. "Well... bye," Sunpaw meowed somewhat akwardly to Rosefoot and followed Frostpaw.

Cinderpaw padded into camp as Sunpaw finally grabbed a carp from the fresh kill pile. Her belly sank as she remembered that she had to bring something to Snowblaze. She looked around, then chose a squirrel. *Someone should make seperate piles,* she thought sourly, noting how the flavors got mixed up unpleasantly.

She dropped her carp and hurried into the nursery. "Here," she meowed, handing the squirrel to Snowblaze. "Ooh, lovely, thank you, Sunpaw." Snowblaze purred as she placed the squirrel on the ground. Moonkit and Gingerkit, who had been playing in the back, came over. "Here, kits, try this squirrel," Snowblaze urged. Moonkit sat back and shook her head stubbornly, but Gingerkit leaned forward and took a nibble. She chewed and swallowed. "It's good!" She informed Moonkit. "Come on, try some."

Reluctantly, Moonkit leaned forward and bit some of the squirrel's leg off. "Yeah!" She said as she swallowed. Sunpaw walked back out.

"Sunpaw!" Cinderpaw called from where she was sitting, under the flowering bush as usual. Sunpaw hurried over, hunger roaring in her belly. Cinderpaw waved the carp in the air, taking a bite out of her trout. Sunpaw took the carp and devoured it hungrily in three bites. "What've you been up to?" She mumbled through the mouthful of carp. Cinderpaw purred. "Getting ready for my warrior assessment. It's in two and a half moons, you know!"

"Really?" Sunpaw asked with a twinge of sadness. Then she'd be alone in the apprentice den, since Cloverfur didn't sleep there. "Yeah!" Cinderpaw chirped, taking a delicate bite out of the trout. "I'll be right back," Cinderpaw added. She got up and made her way to the dirtplace tunnel. Sunpaw looked around the camp and spotted Goldleaf walking out. Applefoot followed closely behind.

Sunpaw narrowed her eyes and got to her paws, following Goldleaf and Applefoot on silent paws, always a few tail-lengths behind them, until they stopped, far from camp. Sunpaw climbed up a tree, stopping on one of the bare branches, and leaning down to look. *What are they doing?*

Applefoot pressed up against Goldleaf, even though it wasn't cold. "Oh Goldleaf..."

Goldleaf blinked. "Applefoot, why are we out here, away from our Clanmates?"

Applefoot blinked too, mimicking Goldleaf. "Well, I have something to tell you."

"Go ahead."

"Goldleaf," Applefoot began, taking a deep breath. "I really, really like... well... I love you, Goldleaf. But you love Sunpaw. I know it."

Sunpaw nearly had to catch herself, as she almost fell out of the tree. Applefoot... *loved* Goldleaf? Surely she didn't! She couldn't... could she? Sunpaw felt a twinge of jealousy and almost missed Goldleaf's reply.

"Applefoot, why would you say that?" He asked, his voice quivering slightly. He continued. "No, Applefoot... I love you."

Ha! Another cliffhanger. *AND* an update! Yeah... sorry about the *slooooooooow* update..... I had writers' block D:

Frost? Territory? WHAA?

HOW WILL SUNPAW REACT?! Goldleaf. Loves. Applefoot. AHH! Are you sure? Yes I'm sure! I'm the *author,* creepy voice!!!!!

Yay... I updated... oh yeah! My friend, Swift_Jay helped me think this up. Thanks Jay! That's their nickname that I made up yesterday. :D

Chapter Fourteen

Sunpaw's eyes widened. Goldleaf *loved* Applefoot? She sighed, then remembered that they were below her. *Wait till you get back to camp.*

Twisting on the branch, she leaped and hit the tallest branch of the next tree over. She continued jumping from branch to branch until she reached the maples that marked camp. She leaped down gracefully and strolled into camp, trying to act like nothing had happened.

Cinderpaw bounced up to her. "Where were you?"

"I just went outside for a minute," Sunpaw told her quickly. She cast an anxious glance around the camp. Thankfully, nobody seemed to be watching her. "I thought I... I thought I saw something."

"Did you?"

"No," Sunpaw told her voice quivering. She hadn't intended to tell Cinderpaw about what she had just seen, but suddenly she couldn't keep it to herself any longer. "Actually, yes, I did see something. Come over here."

She ran over to the flowering bush and scooted under. Cinderpaw followed. Her blue eyes locked onto Sunpaw's green ones. "What happened?" She asked.

"Goldleaf and Applefoot were out in the forest and I followed them. And, well, Goldleaf told Applefoot he loved her!" Sunpaw said in a rush. Cinderpaw's eyes widened. "He *loved* her? Are you sure?"

"Yes!" Sunpaw said, nodding vigorously. "I heard him say it. She told him she loved him but that she thought he loved me, and he said straight out that he loved her."

Cinderpaw sat back on her haunches, sucking in a deep breath.

"This is bad," she announced. "If Goldleaf is Applefoot's mate, anything can happen. He's an awesome fighter. If Applefoot turns him nasty..."

She didn't need to complete the thought. Sunpaw knew what she was thinking. "Yeah. Well..."

She blinked, trying to think. "I can't say anything without getting to know him better. What do you suggest?"

"Talk to him," Cinderpaw suggested immediately. "Ask him about himself. His family. His friends. What he likes. But not *who* he likes," she added quickly. "That'll put him in an awkward spot."

Sunpaw nodded, barely hearing Cinderpaw. A thousand thoughts were going through her mind. *Why would he say he loved her? What has she done to suddenly interest him? Does he not see the way things seem to slide right by her?*

Does he not understand that this is the cat who killed Moonpaw?

*8*8*8*8*8*8*

Sunpaw woke the next morning, stretched, and saw to her happiness and shock that she wasn't the last to wake. *Finally!* Stonepaw and Cinderpaw were still fast asleep in their nests. She nudged Cinderpaw with her paw then hurried down the tunnel, emerging into the camp, and looking around. Brightsky was standing on the same flat stone as yesterday. "Hailheart, take Whiteswirl, Stonepaw, Greenflower, and Cinderpaw go to the BreezeClan border, hunt, then come back."

Hailheart, a dark gray tom with silver patches, nodded and hurried off to get his patrol. "Tansypool, take Shadowpelt, Skypelt, Sunpaw, and Goldleaf along the FlowerClan border and the hunt. And Amberclaw, take Willowfur, Peonystorm, Frostpaw, and Applefoot along HollyClan then come back. If you see any forest prey then hunt, but no fishing in the river-border."

Now's my chance! Sunpaw realized. She could talk to Goldleaf and try to get to know him better.

Tansypool, a white-gray she cat with blue eyes, flicked her tail, indicating that the patrol should join her. Shadowpelt, a she cat with fur that matched her name, Skypelt, and Goldleaf hurried up to them. Sunpaw padded forward. The patrol was complete so they set out.

Shadowpelt, Tansypool, and Skypelt quickly took the lead, chatting quietly as they led the patrol through the leafless trees. Goldleaf and Sunpaw stayed behind a few paces. Sunpaw was slightly annoyed at him, but knew she had to hide it. *How to do this tactically?*

"So, how old are you?" Sunpaw asked, then winced. Why was she asking him how old he was?! But Goldleaf smiled. "I'm twelve moons."

They walked in silence for a few moments. Sunpaw dug through her brain for another question, and a silver she cat swam to the front of her mind. "How old are Applefoot and Lightningfeather?"

Sunpaw watched his face closely for anything that might suggest that Goldleaf really didn't love Applefoot. But there was nothing, not even a single twitch. "They're fourteen moons. But they had a sister, you know. From an older litter."

"Really?" Sunpaw asked. "Yeah," Goldleaf said. "Her name was Frostkit. But her littermates, Nightkit and Leopardkit, they didn't survive through the night. And Frostkit ran away."

Sunpaw's heartbeat quickened. "R-really?"

Goldleaf nodded. "Yeah. She was silver. She looked a bit like you, actually."

Sunpaw's blood ran cold. They passed Sky Tree. Was this Frostkit, the lost kit, Sunpaw's mother?

Guess what????

This book is almost over!

That's right, this will actually only be about as long as a

normal Warriors book, about 20-25 chapters. Yay! It'll be a series of six books. I already have the titles and covers for books two and three ready! 8D

Well. Is this Frostkit really Frost? I think you all know the answer XD

Also, check out my friend's books: Storm Awakening. By Swift_Jay, and Fernwhisker's Destiny. By WarriorCatLover03.

Thanks everyone!

~Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Chapter Fifteen

Sunpaw padded back into camp, her jaws full of prey- three squirrels, a mouse, and two trout. "Great job," Skypelt praised her, voice muffled by a loud purr. "We have fighting training with Stonepaw later, so eat well. He's strong."

Sunpaw nodded and put down her prey on the pile, then picked up a pike she spotted at the top of the heap and brought it over to the flowering bush. She slipped under and began chewing, crunching through the small bones.

"Ah, Sunrat."

Sunpaw looked up, hissing at the snide voice that had uttered the jibe. Applefoot. "What do *you* want?" She asked grumpily. Suddenly, the pike didn't seem so appealing. "Just wanted to let you know that Goldleaf and I are mates now," she boasted. "Oh really? And you think I care?" Sunpaw meowed. She rolled her eyes, though knowing her retaliation was weak. "Because it's obvious that you liked Goldleaf. But now, me and him are mates. So you'll *have* to find someone else."

Her cold dark blue eyes glittered. Sunpaw sighed and flicked her tail as if she wasn't bothered by Applefoot's presence. "Don't you have some warrior duty thing to do?"

Applefoot blinked. "Nope. Silverstar gave me the day-"

"Applefoot! Why aren't you on that hunting patrol?"

Applefoot cursed under her breath and rushed away. "Bring me back a trout!" Sunpaw couldn't resist calling. "Or maybe you can only bring back minnows!"

"Sunpaw!" Came Willowfur's mew from behind her, usually soft but now stern. "That's no way to talk to a Clanmate."

"Yes, Willowfur," Sunpaw muttered meekly, ducking her head. Willowfur snorted and moved on. Sunpaw sighed. Had everyone gone mad? Why was Applefoot so well loved?

✧🐱✧

Sunpaw trotted through the forest with Stonepaw, Whiteswirl, and Skypelt. "Right, Sunpaw, I know you know some basic fighting moves," Skypelt began once they had reached a ring of trees. Soft sand dusted the ground. "But not all of them can be Clan approved. Now, Stonepaw, you attack Whiteswirl. Sunpaw, watch."

Sunpaw sat down and obediently fixed her green gaze on her tom Clanmates. Whiteswirl and Stonepaw moved forward so they were standing in the middle of the clearing and started circling each other. Suddenly, Sunpaw saw Stonepaw fix his eyes on Whiteswirl's shoulders and darted forward. Whiteswirl, thinking he was going for his shoulders, darted backwards, but momentum pushed him forwards and he hooked Whiteswirl's legs out from under him. Whiteswirl fell, but managed to roll to the side, taking Stonepaw with him. He pinned Stonepaw easily, who went limp. Whiteswirl moved back, and Stonepaw leaped up moving with power and landing on Whiteswirl's back. "Thought you could beat me that easily, did you?" Stonepaw snarled, landing a gentle blow on Whiteswirl's shoulders. Whiteswirl rolled again, but Stonepaw was already gone. He leaped forward and landed on Whiteswirl, spreading out his paws and pinning him. Stonepaw leaned down, baring his teeth at Whiteswirl's neck. "Good job!" Whiteswirl praised him, leaping lightly to his paws. "Now, Sunpaw, you spar with him."

"But shouldn't I learn any moves?" Sunpaw remembered that Lionscar had taught her some moves, but somehow, she didn't think Skypelt and Whiteswirl should know that. "I think you'll know what to do," Skypelt assured her as she moved back to give the two apprentices room.

They started circling each other. Sunpaw watched Stonepaw, marking his every move. *Don't forget,* she told herself*, That Stonepaw started the last match by faking Whiteswirl out. Don't let him do that to you.*

As soon as that thought hit her mind, Stonepaw leaped forward, eyes fixed on Sunpaw's feet. Sunpaw crouched, protecting her paws. Stonepaw, who had clearly been trying to fake her out with the same move he had used on Whiteswirl, soared over her and landed a few feet away. Sunpaw whipped around and leaped onto Stonepaw's back. Stonepaw tensed and rolled, pushing Sunpaw into the ground. Sunpaw, refusing to be caught so easily, wriggled free from his grasp and, as Stonepaw staggered to his paws, dove forward, intending to bowl him over. Paws reached up and grabbed her shoulders, and shock filled Sunpaw when she realized that Stonepaw had unsheathed his claws! Skypelt and Whiteswirl hadn't seemed to notice. *Well* Sunpaw thought, *if that's how it is, so be it!*

She rolled and thrust her body downwards, slamming Stoenpaw into the ground. She tore at his belly fur with her claws, drawing some blood but not enough to be noticed. Just as a little retaliation.

She pushed her legs onto Stonepaw's, pushing him into the grounds and unsheathing her claws again. "I thought," she hissed as she leaned down to bear her teeth at him, "That we trained with sheathed claws!"

Sorry guys... This is really, really short. 😩 I'm on vacation in a hotel, and I have to share a bed with my seven year old brother. Needless to say, I didn't sleep well last night and am very tired.

I'm going back to my hometown on Sunday, I think, though, when I will have my own room again, and hopefully I will be able to sleep better. School starts in, what, fourteen days?! NO! 😩 :(Oh well...

Well, I hope you liked the chapter :I... What did you think of Stonepaw's, er, *training methods?* XD

That's, really... Uh... Comment about your favorite part if you want :) tomorrow I will dedicate it. Alright, night everyone! But it's not even ten yet lol

~ ✧ 🐱 ✧ Rainfeather ✧ 🐱 ✧

Chapter Sixteen

Sunpaw got off of Stonepaw, allowing him to get to his paws. "Great job, Sunpaw!" Skypelt cheered. Whiteswirl nodded, padding over and purring as if she was his own apprentice. "Yes, good job. Stonepaw, your warrior assessment is in half a moon. You better shape up."

Stonepaw growled lowly. Sunpaw shot a quizzical glance at him. Why was the silver-pelted tom suddenly attacking with unsheathed claws and ignoring her? They had gotten on reasonably well before. True, they had never really interacted, but when Stonepaw told her about the training session he had seemed nice enough. *Maybe he's just sore that I beat him.*

Sunpaw shrugged and flicked her tail. Skypelt looked up at the sky, which was slowly darkening. "Why don't we fish, then go back?"

"Sounds good to me," Whiteswirl meowed while Sunpaw nodded vigorously. "Fine," Stonepaw snapped sullenly. Sunpaw rolled her eyes as they headed to the HollyClan border. Sunpaw waded into the river and swam down a little. *I want to be alone while I hunt.*

Sunpaw ducked under the water and swam, breathing through her nose under the water, feeling it pass through her lungs. Slowly her energy returned. Finally she flicked her head above water and looked around. Stonepaw, Whiteswirl, and Skypelt'd pale pelts very barely visible. Feeling more confident, she began to dive for fish.

"Who're you?"

Sunpaw snapped her head up out of the water. A ginger, gold, and white she cat stood on the HollyClan side of the border. She was beautiful, with a long, thick tail, and bright jade green eyes. "Who're *you?"*

The she cat smiled. "I'm Blazepaw, a HollyClan apprentice."

Sunpaw growled, then quickly stopped. Blazepaw was being polite. "I'm Sunpaw, an apprentice of CloudClan."

She felt pride when she said that. She was finally CloudClan. She sniffed the air. She could only smell Blazepaw. "So is it just you?"

Blazepaw shifted her paws. "For now, yes. My mentor and Clanmate are supposed to come soon, but I was hunting and ran off. So yes, I'm alone."

Sunpaw nodded and hopped out of he river, shaking out her pelt. Her catches, a pike, two fish, and a carp, lay on the riverbed beside her. "Well, I'd better get back to my Calnmates. See you!"

"Wait!" Blazepaw called. Sunpaw turned. "Are you going to the Gathering tomorrow?" Blazepaw asked eagerly. Sunpaw shrugged, trying to hide her confusion of what a 'Gathering' was. "I dunno. Maybe."

"Well, bye!" Blazepaw meowed as Sunpaw picked up her fish and began to head away. Sunpaw waved her tail at Blazepaw and hurried off.

What was a Gathering? She decided she would ask Cinderpaw when she got back. She walked along the river until she came to Stonepaw, Skypelt, and Whiteswirl. "Good, your back," Whiteswirl meowed. "Let's go."

Stonepaw was holding three trout, Skypelt six minnows and a pike, and Whiteswirl four fish. Sunpaw dipped her head at Whiteswirl and fell in behind Skypelt as they headed back. "Great job," Skypelt mumbled through her mouthful of fresh kill. Sunpaw smiled. "Thanks." She nearly dropped her prey.

They finally reached the circle of maples and padded into camp. First, they hurried over to the fresh kill pile to drop off their prey; Moonkit and Gingerkit were sitting there, sorting the prey into two piles, forest prey and fish.

Sunpaw dropped her prey on the pile and looked around for Cinderpaw. She was sitting over with Lightningfeather. Goldleaf

was sitting off to the side. *I suppose Applefoot's off bring annoying,* Sunpaw thought mutinously. Well, good riddance, she supposed. She walked over to Goldleaf, a trout in her jaws. "Share?"

"Sure," Goldleaf meowed. Sunpaw sat down and he took a bite of the trout. "So what's this I hear about Applefoot being your mate?" Sunpaw asked. Goldleaf swallowed his mouthful and Sunpaw took a bite too. "Yes," he said once he had swallowed. "We are."

He said it with a certain finality that indicated that the matter was closed. It wasn't for Sunpaw, however. "You remember Moonpaw?"

Goldleaf shut his eyes and flattened his ears to his head. "I don't want to talk about that."

Sunpaw nodded and they continued eating the trout in silence. "So when do you think you'll get your first apprentice?" Sunpaw asked, just to make conversation. "I'm not sure," Goldleaf mewed. "Not for a while. I've only just become a warrior."

Sunpaw nodded. "When do you think you'll have your first assessment?" Goldleaf asked. Sunpaw looked at him quizzically. "How many assessments do we have?"

"A lot," Goldleaf told her, purring in amusement. "Maybe once every half-moon."

Sunpaw nodded and remembered what Blazepaw had been talking about. The mysterious 'Gathering.' "Goldleaf, what's a Gathering?"

"It's a time when all the four Clans meet in peace at a place called Star Trees, where there is a truce and the Clans share news. There is a truce for as long as the moon shines down."

Sunpaw nodded. "So there's one tomorrow?"

Goldleaf nodded. "You'll probably go."

Sunpaw nodded again and took the last bite of trout, then buried the bones. She felt strong laps of a tongue lapping her pelt as she fell asleep.

Ooh... Goldleaf's a CHEATER! Or is he? XD

A GATHERING?! Yay! Thanks everyone for all the supportive comments and votes :) You guys are the best :D

I have to go in a cat today for five and a half hours so I will probably write and update, but knowing Wattpad it probably won't save because I will be on my iPad and won't be able to publish it. Oh well.

Have you noticed something different? I decided to change the chapter names to just "Chapter __" because I don't want to give anything away ;)

Thanks everyone! See you tomorrow, hopefully :3

~ ✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Thanks everyone!

Chapter Seventeen

It was midday the next day. Sunpaw was sitting in camp, on a large flat stone with Lightningfeather and Cinderpaw. She glanced over to where Goldleaf was sitting with Applefoot. Applefoot turned and whispered something in Goldleaf's ear. Goldleaf smiled and licked her ear. Sunpaw sighedm feeling unexpectedly unhappy, and looked back at Lightningfeather and Cinderpaw.

It was obvious that the gray she cat had feelings for Lightningfeather, and it was also obvious that the ginger-spotted black tom liked her too. They were sitting close together, pelts brushing, with their tails intertwined. Thankfully, they were chatting with Sunpaw.

Lightningfeather leaned in a little to her. "I'm sorry about Goldleaf," he meowed quietly. Sunpaw scooted in a little, her back to Goldleaf and Applefoot. "That's okay." Only her eyes betrayed how miserable she really was. *Why did he choose her? Why not someone else? Someone like...*

She couldn't complete the thought. Lightningfeather snorted. "It is *not* okay! For pretty much his entire life, he's hated Applefoot. And everyone thought he liked you. But he was just playing with you. Just ignore him."

Sunpaw nodded, her eyes downcast. "Why, though?"

Cinderpaw shrugged. "All anyone knows is that she was mad as a badger when she came in and saw Goldleaf curled up with you!"

"He was curled up with me?" Sunpaw gasped. Lightningfeather nodded grimly. "Started dozing right beside you. She was *mad."*

Sunpaw growled. "Why would he do that? The mouse heart."

Cinderpaw nodded. "I know."

Sunpaw lay down, averting her eyes. Her heart felt like a stone. "Look! It's Silverstar, announcing who will be going to the Gathering!" Cinderpaw gasped suddenly. Sunpaw looked up. Lightningfeather's silver mother was indeed mounting the Rock Pile. "Cats of CloudClan!" She yowled. "The cats going to the Gathering will be me, Brightsky, Featherpelt, Cloverfur, Willowfur, Skypelt, Hailheart, Whiteswirl, Greenflower, Applefoot, Goldleaf, Lightningfeather, Sunpaw, Stonepaw, Cinderpaw, Rosefoot, and Windheart. Be ready by twilight."

She leaped down off the Rock Pile. "Yes!" Lightningfeather hissed, grinning. "We have the Gathering together!" He touched noses with Cinderpaw.

Skypelt padded over. Hastily, Lightningfeather and Cinderpaw untwined their tails and moved away from each other. "We're going to do swimming practice in a few minutes with Frostpaw, Stonepaw, Cinderpaw-" she dipped her head to Cinderpaw and Lightningfeather, then continued. "Lightningfeather, Applefoot, and Goldleaf."

Sunpaw nodded. "Why so many cats?" Lightningfeather asked. "Remember Raincloud?" Skypelt meowed. Lightningfeather blinked. "Oh."

"It's in ten minutes, so meet at the entrance to camp," Skypelt instructed before hurrying off. "Who's Raincloud?" Sunpaw asked. "Snowblaze's sister. She drowned a while ago, when they were both young warriors."

Sunpaw nodded, lowering her eyes.

✧🐈✧

It was twilight. Sunpaw was hurriedly chewing a mouse. Silverstar had decided to allow them to eat fresh forest prey, seeing as they had so much prey. Sunpaw couldn't remember the last time she'd had fresh mouse.

"CloudClan! Time to go to the Gathering!" Silverstar yowled. Sunpaw got to her paws and padded to the entrance. "Sunpaw?"

Sunpaw turned around. Goldleaf was standing there. "What do you want?" She snarled. "Sunpaw, listen, I-"

Sunpaw cut him off, her tail lashing angrily. "I have nothing to say to you, Goldleaf. Go tell it all to your mate." The last word was scathing as Sunpaw whipped around, tail swishing through the air. She stalked over to Cinderpaw and Lightningfeather.

The Clan set off. "This is so much fun!" Cinderpaw gushed to Sunpaw. They padded through the leafless trees. "Every cat talks about training and prey and news and stuff, then the leaders talk. It's a lot of fun."

Finally they came to a thick circle of oak trees in the middle of the forest, on the corner of the all of the territories where each Clan met the other three. Silverstar pushed her way through a leaf. Sunpaw, Cinderpaw, and Lightningfeather followed.

Sunpaw gasped when she entered the hollow. Cats from every different Clan sat there, talking. A wave of unfamiliar scents hit her nose. "Come on!" Cinderpaw meowed confidentially, obviously not bothered by the large number of cats in the clearing. "We want you to meet some cats."

Sunpaw followed after Cinderpaw and Lightningfeather bemusedly. She wondered if Blazepaw were here as she sat down in a group of cats. By sniffing carefully, she realized there was one apprentice from every Clan. Blazepaw wasn't there. "This is Mousepaw," Cinderpaw meowed, indicating a small gray-brown she cat from HollyClan. "This is Grasspaw," she said next, flicking her tail at a black and cream tom from BreezeClan, "And this is Oakpaw."

She nodded towards a handsome dark brown tom. His amber eyes glowed as he dipped his head. "Greetings. Who are you?"

Sunpaw felt like she couldn't speak for a heartbeat, but then regained her composure. "I'm Sunpaw," she meowed. Oakpaw smiled at her. "Congratulations."

"And I'm Mouse*foot* now," The gray brown she cat bragged proudly. Cinderpaw butted her gently with her head. "Congratulations!"

"We have a new apprentice," Oakpaw added. "Mistpaw."

"Cool," Lightningfeather meowed cheerfully. "Goldleaf's a warrior now."

Oakpaw smiled and touched noses with the black tom. "That's wonderful! You must be so happy for him. Where is he, anyway?"

They all looked around, Sunpaw included. "No, I'm not proud of him," Lightningfeather muttered, then raised his voice. "He's taken Applefoot as his mate."

Oakpaw, Mousefoot, and Grasspaw froze. "What?" Oakpaw meowed as if he hadn't heard. "He's Applefoot's mate," Sunpaw repeated quietly. "That's not good," Oakpaw meowed softly. "Not at all," Cinderpaw agreed. "But-"

She was cut off as four loud yowls screeched to the night. "Quiet! The Gathering will now begin."

Sunpaw turned and scooted back a little, ending up next to Oakpaw. She heard a soft purring as a dark ginger tom stepped forward. His voice echoed around the clearing as he began. "BreezeClan is doing well. Brownfur has had my kits, Blossomkit, Hailkit, and Mothkit. That is all."

The Clans erupted in cheers. "Blossomkit! Hailkit! Mothkit! Brownfur!"

When the cheering had died down, Leafstar stepped forward. His golden pelt shone and Sunpaw growled in hatred. She would never forget that this tom was the leader of the Clan that had killed Rainfur. "Cats of all Clans, HollyClan is thriving. We have one new warrior, Mousefoot."

"Mousefoot! Mousefoot! Mousefoot!" The Clans cheered. Mousefoot purred. "Also, we chased a badger out of our territory into unknown land. Be careful, it may still be hanging around."

Next, a handsome brown tom stepped forward. "That's Cheetahstar, my dad," Oakpaw whispered to Sunpaw. Sunpaw nodded. The two looked alike. "We too have prey rich land and are catching more

than enough prey to feed ourselves. We have a new apprentice, Mistpaw."

He stepped back and Silverstar stepped forward. "CloudClan is prey rich. A former loner has asked to join us, and we accepted. We welcome Sunpaw to the Clan."

Sunpaw felt happy as cheers rained down on her. Cinderpaw nudged her. "Goldleaf's cheering super loud," she whispered. Sunpaw looked over. Goldleaf was indeed cheering loudly. He looked at her and their eyes locked for a heartbeat, then he looked away. "Goldleaf has also become a warrior, and we were *attacked* by HollyClan. Raintail was killed."

Leafstar hopped to his feet instantly, eyes blazing. "How dare you accuse HollyClan of his death!"

"It *was* HollyClan's fault!" Goldleaf called out, and Sunpaw remembered that Raintail had been his father. Mousefoot growled. "It's not polite to announce it in the middle of a Gathering, fox breath!" She yowled. Sunpaw winced. What was happening to the Clans? BreezeClan was on their feet now, joining in with the fray. "HollyClan killed Sleetwjiskr last moon!" A light gray she cat screeched furiously. "And wounded Bluepelt!" A golden brown she cat added. Silverstar leaped off of the rock where all of the leaders had been sitting. "CloudClan, we're leaving!"

She hurried off, CloudClan following close behind. Sunpaw threw a last, sad glance at Mousefoot, Grasspaw, and Oakpaw. They all wore expressions of unspeakable sadness.

OH NO!!!!!! The Clans are turning against each other!!!!! 😾😾😾😾 No not really XD 😹😹😹😹

How was the chapter? Not to be... Annoying... But please float me a vote/comment/even follow if you enjoyed the chapter ^.^ If you want, of course. Also, if you want me to read your story, just ask ;)

Oh, and I finally worked out that new schedule ^.^ It'll be on my message board soon.

And a quick update! Tell me what hidden messages you might see in the chapter 😎😎

Thanks for reading!

~ ✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Author's Note

Hey guys. I just wanted to say something short- if you notice any mistakes in grammar or typos, please just tell me :) It's okay I don't mind :D

Thanks!

~ ✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Chapter Eighteen

"I'm expecting kits," Peonystorm announced half a moon later. Sunpaw looked up. The gray she cat's belly was indeed swelling. She was standing on the Rock Pile with her mate, Whiteswirl. "They're due in a moon."

"Congratulations," Silverstar purred. "CloudClan always welcomes new members!"

"But, what about my mentor?" Frostpaw called. Silverstar gazed around the camp. "Applefoot," she meowed. "You will be Frostpaw's mentor."

Sunpaw's eyes widened as she saw the silver she cat dip her head. Frostpaw nodded, ducking her head a little. She seemes terrified of the warrior. *Who wouldn't be?* She thought to herself. She glanced over to Lightningfeather, sitting a few mouse-lengths away, who looked thunderstruck. She tipped her head slightly to him, he shook his. They would talk later.

Goldleaf, sitting next to Applefoot, blinked and flicked his tail. Sunpaw watched him closely and had for the last half moon. The gray tom didn't seem to be affected in any way by his relationship with Applefoot; indeed, he carried on his normal routine, still attempting to talk to Sunpaw. Sunpaw ignored him. *He has his precious Applefoot to talk to.*

"Sunpaw, come with Greenflower, Cinderpaw, Skypelt, and Amberclaw on this hunting patrol," Brightsky called, waving her tail at where the three cats were waiting at the camp entrance. "Over here."

Sunpaw bounded over and the patrol sat out. She shivered at the chill in the air. Leaf bare was creeping in, like it or not, and the Clan had to hunt harder to get enough prey. Sunpaw suspected that there would be more activity on the borders as other Clans ran out of prey.

Greenflower stopped and looked back at the members of the patrol. "Ground hunting or fishing?"

"Fishing," Sunpaw answered at once. "I agree," Cinderpaw and Skypelt said together. Amberclaw nodded so they headed down to the FlowerClan border, where Skypelt claimed there was a river. She was right; the river was long, wide, and fast flowing. Sunpaw dove in instantly, sucking in a huge breath, and paddled to the bottom and began diving for trout that stuck to the bottom. The water swirled past her eyes as she finally surfaced, the water tainted with a faint light pink from the blood of the trouts. She resurfaced and noticed Skypelt, Greenflower, Amberclaw, and Cinderpaw staring at her, eyes wide. "What?" She asked.

"You... You... You didn't breathe," Cinderpaw breathed in astonishment. Sunpaw froze. *What if they found out? "*Oh, I did," she assured them quickly, flicking her tail. She turned. "You just weren't watching. I'm going to go farther downriver to see if there's any more fish. Be right back."

She flipped over and began to swim quickly down the river, fighting against the current and kicking out with strong, powerful strokes. She reached the FlowerClan border and dove down.

She heard a splash and a dark brown pelt swooshed into her vision, creating bubbles. *Oakpaw!* She thought. She lunged forward and sank her teeth into his thick scruff fur and dragged him out of the water. He was heavy. She shoved him onto the land and, on an instinct, drummed his pelt with her paws. He coughed, opened his eyes, and spat out water. "Sunpaw?"

"Yes, it's me. I know I'm on your territory," she added as he opened his mouth. "What?" He muttered, distracted. "How'd you fall in?" Sunpaw asked sitting down as Oakpaw pushed himself slowly to his paws. "I was hunting and tripped on a pebble ***(Swift_Jay will get this lol)*** and I fell in."

"Can you walk?" Sunpaw asked. Oakpaw nodded. "Hey, can we meet here tomorrow night?" He asked suddenly. Startled, Sunpaw nodded. "Why?"

"To talk," Oakpaw meowed hastily. "Just to talk. Oh, I have to go, bye!"

With that he sped away leaving Sunpaw to dive back into the river.

Hey guys... For those of you who read it, the last chapter was... Incomplete. Basically I was typing it up and I accidentally hit Save and Publish because I had to go, and it wasn't done, instead of just Save. But here is the full chapter.

WHAT DID OAKPAW JUST ASK?! LOL. What do you like, Sunpaw and Oakpaw, or Sunpaw and Goldleaf? I know who she will end up with! 😎😎

Swift_Jay... He tripped on a pebble...! Remember Rainfeather? Lol

Thanks for reading guys and for boosting me over 500 views! That's awesome guys and a vote on a chapter you liked (or any chapter!) is amazing.

That's all for now. Bye!

~ ✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Chapter Nineteen

💥💥💥 = + = One Moon Later = + = 💥💥💥

"All cats old enough to climb the Sky Tree gather beneath the Rock Pile for a Clan meeting!" Silverstar's meow rang out over the camp. Sunpaw woke suddenly, jerked from a few heartbeats of sleep she had managed to grab after meeting with Oakpaw the night before. She smiled and gave Cinderpaw a nudge with her paws. "Wake up, slow slug!"

Cinderpaw opened her eyes. Sunpaw gaped when she saw that they were dull and glistening with a fever. Cinderpaw sniffed weakly. "C-Coming," she meowed feebly. Sunpaw shook her head. "No, lie back. Rest. You're sick."

"But I-"

"You're sick! And I will get Featherpelt soon. Just go back to sleep."

Cinderpaw nodded after a slight hesitation and curled back up, coughing. Sunpaw padded out into the clearing, where she realized that she was the last to gather. She shrank into her pelt as she felt the gazes of all the cats burn into her pelt. Then Silverstar began. "Tonight we gather to celebrate the naming of one new warrior. Stonepaw step forward."

Sunpaw realized it must be Stonepaw's warrior ceremony. She watched as the sturdy silver tom stepped forward.

"Whiteswirl, has your apprentice learned the skills essential to becoming a warrior?" Silverstar prompted the gray warrior. "Many times over," Whiteswirl assured her. "Then I, Silverstar, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand your noble code and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn. Stonepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code, and defend this Clan even at the cost of your life?"

"I do," Stonepaw answered readily.

"Then I Silverstar, leader of CloudClan, give you your warrior name. Stonepaw, from this moment onward, you will be known as Stonewhisker. StarClan honors your spirit and fighting skills and we welcome you as a full member of this noble Clan."

"Stonewhisker! Stonewhisker!" Sunpaw cheered, her voice merging with those of her Clanmates. "May you server your Clan well for many moons," Silverstar meowed, resting her muzzle on his head. Stonewhisker licked her shoulder respectfully.

Sunpaw padded off to the medicine den. "Featherpelt!" She called. "Featherpelt, Cinderpaw's sick."

The gray tom hurried out. "Are you sure? That'll be the third one sick. Can she walk?"

Sunpaw shrugged. "I don't think so. She tried to get up but she was shaky and I told her to go back to sleep."

Featherpelt nodded. "Alright, I'm coming."

He padded back in, then came back out with Cloverfur and a bundle of herbs in his jaws. The three of them walked into the apprentice den. When they reached Cinderpaw's nest, Featherpelt's eyes widened.

Cinderpaw was lying, eyes closed, and shivering. The den smelled rank and sour, like sickness, and Cinderpaw was curled up in a tiny ball. She looked thin and frail. Featherpelt looked up at Sunpaw. "She's very, very ill," he murmured, eyes stretched wide with concern. "She might not make it through the night."

Sunpaw's eyes widened. "We have to move her," Featherpelt hissed urgently. "She might infect everyone else. Frostpaw is already sick, and so is Shadowfur, and Stonewhisker will be in the warrior den. So that leaves only you."

Sunpaw nodded, whiskers twitching, eyes the only thing that betrayed her deep worry for Cinderpaw. "Cloverfur, you move her from that end, and I'll move her from here," Featherpelt ordered.

Cloverfur nodded and dropped the herbs near where Featherpelt had abandoned his. "We'll come back for them," Featherpelt meowed when he saw Sunpaw glance at them. "For now, I want you to move the soiled moss, take it somewhere where it can't infect other cats. Bury it; the cold ground will take care of the infection. Then get to sleep, and make sure to keep your strength up. Oh, and eat this."

Featherpelt shoved a small, dark green leaf at her. "It's tansy. It'll help you fight the sickness, if it tries to infect you. If you start coughing come straight to me, and if you hear any other cats coughing, do the same."

Sunpaw nodded once, trying to remember all the jumbled orders Featherpelt had given her. He and Cloverfur began to take Cinderpaw. They padded out, and Sunpaw chewed up the herb. It was sweet, but had a bitter tang to it. Sighing, she followed after the medicine cat and his apprentice with the moss from Cinderpaw's nest wrapped in her own. She figures she might as well change the bedding and get some moss in storage before the snow came and got everything too wet.

She dug a hole far from camp, near the HollyClan border, and buried the moss and looked around for a good moss tree. Spotting one on her side of the border, she padded over and began stripping the tree neatly of its moss. She got a huge bundle and prepared to go back to camp.

She heard a yowl. "Attack!"

She spun around. The whole of HollyClan, warriors and apprentices, was facing her. Leafstar, his golden pelt recognizable even in the moonlight, was at the head of the patrol, running through the water. Sunpaw, acting on instinct, dropped her moss and hared away, weaving neatly through the trees. She hoped they didn't know where the camp was, but she couldn't be sure. She sprinted around, taking long, confusing routes so that if they were following her they might get lost. Fear and adrenaline pushed her onward, made her ignore the pounding of her heart, the gasping of her trying to get air into her lungs. Her paws crunched over hard, brittle leaves until she felt sure that she lost them, and she took a

quick route switch into camp. She leaped in and bellowed "HOLLYCLAN IS ATTACKING!"

Wow that was a short chapter. Don't worry though, the next chapters will be extra, extra long. I'm going to include a part with Oakpaw because I haven't done much with him and Sunpaw yet, and there will be a fight with Oakpaw, Goldleaf, and Sunpaw. You'll have to wait and see for the details!

And yaaaay! A cliffhanger! And I just made up an awesome name for them so they will now be called "Cliffies!" I don't know if someone made it up before me but my jPad says it's not a real word. So.

.0. Leafstar what the StarClan are you doing?! I wonder... I have no idea! XD

The next chapters will probably take a longer time to publish since they will be longer than usual, and my other books may not be updated as frequently. This will probably go on for about a week, maybe two. Not more than three, I hope. It's so cool that I will actually be done with this soon! Maybe - just maybe - we can get it up to 1K views! Do you think we could do that? Maybe! It already has something like 568 or something, so let's do out best!

I really need to dedicate more chapters. I think I will just go through at the end of the book and dedicate chapters to followers and commenters, voters, and readers. Maybe even you! Actually, most of you have probably already gotten a dedication so... :) Maybe you'll get another.

Thanks everyone! Oh and here's a challenge- in a comment, I want you all to write a sentence (ONE sentence) that has these words in it- Storm, butter, and Sunpaw! Okay everyone! And it can't be something like "The Storm was made out of butter and killed Sunpaw." Or something. Come on, be creative, think outside of the box! I will add more, so think think think!

Thank you for reading this super-edition author's note XD

~✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Quick Update

Hey guys... ***I HAVE A PROBLEM.***

I really, really need a new cover for "Shadows of the Past". So I'm having a cover contest! :D yay! 😸😸

Okay. I don't want to give away my email, so here's who you can get it to me if you want to join the contest. Design it, and use it as the cover of a book. Then PM the book to me and I can screenshot it and crop it so that I save it to my iPad and all that. Thanks!

~ ✧ 🐱 ✧ **Rainfeather** ✧ 🐱 ✧

Chapter Twenty

Silverstar bolted to her paws, staring right at Sunpaw. "What?"

Sunpaw slid to the ground, exhaustion hitting her in a huge wave. "HollyClan's attacking!" She wheezed. "Need... Water..."

Some cat ran off to get some. Sunpaw was only aware of how hard she was breathing, and how she had to be able to stop HollyClan. *They won't kill CloudClan!* Suddenly a loud *crack* sounded just outside of camp and a tree branch from a sturdy old maple tree plummeted to the ground near the medicine den. Sunpaw pushed herself to her paws, almost frozen but for the rise and fall of her flanks. Silverstar stared up. "CloudClan, defensive line," she meowed quietly. She sounded calm; Sunpaw wondered how she could be so calm when they're lives could be on the line. "Sunpaw, drink that water quickly then stand beside Skypelt. Stonewhisker, get Snowblaze, Peonystorm, and the kits and Rosefoot and Windheart to safety. Lightningfeather, guard the medicine den. Everyone else, battle formations."

Sunpaw took the soaked moss that Cloverfur offered her and lapped at the water with a word of thanks, then pushed it away and slipped in beside Skypelt. The warrior looked down at Sunpaw. "Be brave," she whispered. Sunpaw nodded, unable to speak, and turned her gaze upon the tree like every other cat. The only cats missing were Cinderpaw, Frostpaw, and Tansypool, who were sick, and Stonewhisker, who was helping the elders, queens and kits.

"Leafstar!" Silverstar yowled suddenly, fiercely. Sunpaw jumped with the abruptness of her shout. "Come down and face us like warriors."

Sunpaw spotted Leaftstar's golden pelt, and then the strong, slender tom leaped gracefully down from the tree. "Silverstar." He spat the name. "So you've decided that you're going to put on a brave face for your Clan. Good decision."

"Oh, it's more than a brave face," Silverstar retorted evenly. "What I want to know is why you're on my territory."

Leafstar smirked. "Well. I didn't like how you accused HollyClan of killing Raintail-"

"YOU DID!" Goldleaf screamed. His voice was bitter, full of anger and resentment. Silverstar silenced him with a single glare. "I will give you three seconds to leave, or we will attack. One.

Two.

"Three."

The whole of HollyClan streamed down among the cats. Everyone began fighting. Sunpaw swiftly leaped onto a cream and gold she cat. She hissed and rolled over. Sunpaw slashed at her now-exposed belly with unsheathed claws, snarling, "If you're going to invade our territory, you better be able to fight back!"

The she cat snarled and kicked her off. "Sure you can defend it in the first place?" She taunted as she pinned her. "I don't think so."

Sunpaw, thinking fast, gave a great heave upward and slammed a paw onto her nose. The she cat howled in pain and swatted a paw clumsily at her eye. Sunpaw stepped back, the claw swishing past her face and missing her eyes by whiskers. A thought flashed through Sunpaw's mind. *She could've blinded me!*

She yowled in fury and sank her teeth into the she cat's tail, biting down hard. She screeched in pain, but Sunpaw didn't let go. Wrenching her tail out from Sunpaw's grasp, she fled the camp.

Sunpaw looked around for her next opponent. Suddenly, a new smell hit her nose as another Clan flooded in through the barriers of the camp, crushing them. *FlowerClan!* Sunpaw thought. *Oakpaw!*

She whirled around and glimpsed Stonewhisker attempting to ward off three muscular HollyClan warriors. Rosefoot was slashing bravely, but a paw to the head was all it took for her to collapse. Sunpaw bounded over, yowling a challenge, and nipping one of the tom's tails. He whipped around and jerked his tail out of her grip,

towering over her. Sunpaw's eyes widened. He looked a lot tougher than the apprentice! Refusing to be intimidated, she screeched and leaped forward, clawing his muzzle and bowling him over. He yowled, grabbed her leg, and thrust her off. Sunpaw landed with a thump at the base of a tree. She leaped back to her feet, spitting with rage. *I will beat this tom!*

The tom had turned back around and was attacking Stonewhisker again. Sunpaw stalked up to him and fastened her jaws into his leg, biting down till she felt blood. The tom howled in pain and brought his long, sharp claws crashing down on Sunpaw's flank. The wound began to spurt out blood, but Sunpaw ignored it and quickly looked around for any fresh wounds. Quickly spotting one on his shoulder, she dug her claw in, thought she knew it was a dirty move. *Good job!* Lionscar cheered in her head.

She hissed and dug her claw in deeper, feeling the tom's blood gush around her paws. He screamed and yowled and jerked away, pulling away. He sprinted out of the camp, leaving a long trail of blood behind him.

"Thanks!" Stonewhisker gasped, slashing at two toms at once. Sunpaw, remembering her first training session with Lionscar, crept up behind him and leaped, slashing his back with unforgiving claws. The warrior reared and dropped backwards, crushing Sunpaw to the ground. She snarled, kicking out with her hind paws in an attempt to throw him off, but to no avail. She was tired. How nice would it be, she thought, to just drift away? Leave her quarrel with Goldleaf alone. It'd be nice to be able to fly and look down on CloudClan.

"Mr-row!"

A loud yowl shocked Sunpaw as her airway suddenly cleared. She gasped and flailed. Finally she found her paws and scrambled up, blinking to find who had helped her.

It was Goldleaf.

Sunpaw screeched, ignoring the fact that her newfound enemy had saved her, and dove in next to him. "Slash his belly!" Goldleaf

instructed. Sunpaw nodded and slammed her paws down repeatedly into the tom's belly while Goldleaf held him down. Finally he wailed piteously and Goldleaf let him up. He fled the camp. "Are you hurt?" Goldleaf shouted. Sunpaw shook her head. Goldleaf spotted the wound on her flank. "Get to the medicine den!" He ordered. Sunpaw nodded and sprinted across the camp.

The inside was hectic. Featherpelt was leaning over Brightsky, and Cloverfur was bandaging one of the warriors from another Clan's paw. Sunpaw blinked. BreezeClan. She hadn't even realized they were there.

Sunpaw sat down and Cloverfur padded over. "Just your flank?" She asked. Sunpaw quickly checked herself over. "Yes."

Cloverfur nodded and chewed up a shriveled marigold leaf. "StarClan knows we need more," she muttered. "I hope all the battle patrols haven't crushed them."

Sunpaw hissed slightly when the juice trickled into her wound. Cloverfur deftly swathed it in cobwebs, looked her over, and nodded. "You're good to go."

Sunpaw raced back out of the den and looked around. The crowd was thinning; many cats lay injured, or, Sunpaw shuddered to think it, dead. She saw an apprentice sneaking towards the nursery. She bounded over, moving quickly and quietly, and launched herself upward, landing on the apprentice's back with a loud thump. She pinned her easily. "A little late, fox breath!" She sneered. The apprentice turned her head lightning fast, sending a sharp jab of pain into Sunpaw's leg as she bit down hard. Sunpaw howled and brought her paw down hard on her head. *Harder, harder*! Lionscar ordered. Sunpaw pushed the apprentice's head to the ground and Lionscar cheered.

Suddenly the apprentice twitched and threw her off with newfound strength. Dirt smeared her face as she gazed, panting, at Sunpaw. Sunpaw saw that she was close to death. She had nearly suffocated her! *What had she done?*

The battle was over, Sunpaw realized as she looked around the

camp. It was over.

AHH WHAT DID SHE JUST DOO?????? Lol. When I originally wrote this she killed the apprentice...!

Be careful, Sunpaw. Be careful.

Bad news: I have school tomorrow. Which means I won't be able to update my books till probably the weekend on Friday. I will try to get some updates in at night, but I might not be able to. 😩😩😩

Wish me luck, middle school starts tomorrow 😾😾

Thank you all for reading this far <3 the book is at over six hundred views and nearly 100 votes! I love you all :) In, you know, a non-creepy way.

Well I better go finish my math packet! See you!

~✧ 🐱 ✧ **Rainfeather** ✧ 🐱 ✧

Ps Anyone wanna RP on my RP book later? I might be there!

Chapter Twenty One

Sunpaw looked around the camp. Amberclaw lay groaning outside the nursery, and Stonewhisker had torn a claw. Whiteswirl had a bloody ear and Peonystorm was crouched, quivering with fear, just outside of camp. Featherpelt padded out of the medicine den, his expression grim. "Silverstar, Brightsky is... Well, she wants to talk to you."

Silverstar nodded, her blue eyes shining, and padded into the den. Cloverfur padded out, brushing the silver leader with her tail. In the sky, the moon reached its peak and the first stars began to light. Sunpaw wondered if any warriors in StarClan were looking down on her, after what she had done almost an hour ago.

Two FlowerClan warriors were dead, cats that Silverstar whispered had been called Redpelt and Stormheart. Skypelt, who Sunpaw was relieved to see wasn't badly injured, worked with Stonewhisker to roll them out of the camp. All the HollyClan and FlowerClan cats had fled, and Sunpaw was left to sit and tremble with the memory of what she had done.

She had almost killed a cat. How? How could she have done? She wanted to moan in frustration. She didn't know. It was as if something had taken her over, possessed her, made her do something. And she knew what that thing that had taken her over was.

Lionscar.

She growled, deep and low in her throat when she thought of the shadowy black tom. What was he doing? He said he could help her. How was killing *apprentices* helpful? It weakened the Clan, but Sunpaw knew that killing was a major no-no. She wouldn't kill any cat, ever. She didn't want that guilt eating at her. Besides, she saw how Frostpaw was sick with greencough. Very sick. She knew Stonewhisker would be devastated if she died, and she didn't want to be the cause of that kind of sadness. No cat deserved that.

But how could she stop Lionscar?

She sighed. She wished more than anything that she could talk to Cinderpaw, but the small gray she cat was sick and there was nothing she could do but stay away. She had a sneaking suspicion that Lionscar was much more trouble than he seemed... But how?

She looked up at the sky and yawned. She was tired. If she fell asleep, she knew she'd dream her way into the Dark Forest. It was the place she'd been going for over a moon now. She knew that she'd need to earn the cat's trust if she was to survive.

And she *was* going to survive.

Sunpaw grabbed a trout and padded into the apprentice den. She curled up, facing the back wall, in her nest, and devoured the trout quickly. She was about to shut her eyes, when-

"Sunpaw?"

Her head snapped up and she turned it so swiftly it hurt. Standing there was Goldleaf. His gray pelt looked dark and shadowy in the half-light, and his golden eyes gleamed. Sunpaw narrowed her eyes at him. "What do *you* want?"

Goldleaf shuffled his paws awkwardly. Sunpaw saw that his normally fluffy, soft fur was spiking up and his eyes were pushed to the ground. "Well, I-I... We need to talk, Sunpaw," he stuttered. Sunpaw rolled her eyes. "Not this again! Goldleaf, no. Just no. Go and eat with Applefoot or whatever."

Goldleaf's eyes widened. "That's what it is!" He gasped, flicking his tail sharply. "You don't like that I'm Applefoot's mate!"

"No!" Sunpaw retorted. "That's not it at all!"

Goldleaf growled. "Then how come you never talk to me anymore? You completely shut me out after Applefoot and I became mates! Come on, admit it Sunpaw! Are you *jealous* of her or something?"

"No!" Sunpaw snarled. She leaped to her paws. "Of course I'm not! Why would I be jealous of *her*?"

Yet was she? She didn't know. She felt confused and didn't know anything anymore. The world had turned upside down. She should've just stayed as a rogue, not getting involved, not having to experience these feelings.

Goldleaf turned his back on Sunpaw. "I thought I knew you," he spat. "Guess not."

With that, he stalked out of the den.

✧🐱✧

Although she was alone in the den, Sunpaw couldn't get to sleep for a while. Her fight with Goldleaf ran through her mind until finally she dropped off. She opened her eyes in the Dark Forest.

And Lionscar. A hot rush of anger crashed over Sunpaw and she growled audibly. "What's wrong?" Lionscar crooned. "Come on, we're fighting with other apprentices today."

Sunpaw followed the shadowy black tom, limping slightly on her hurt paw. "We'll be working on battle moves later," Lionscar added. Sunpaw nodded, not speaking. She was curious. Who were these apprentices?

Finally they emerged into a clearing. Sunpaw looked around. A dull white-gray tom was standing in the corner, with a bunch of small cats from the other Clans. "Right, everyone's going to fight someone, so just wait till you're called," Lionscar ordered, leaping upon a large rock. "First up, Flakecloud and Stormbreeze, both of the Dark Forest."

Sunpaw watched in boredom as two toms fought. Then, a tom and a she cat. Then two she cats. Finally she heard, "Lastly Sunpaw, of CloudClan. Her opponent will be..."

Lionscar paused and Sunpaw stepped into the fighting area. A silver tabby pelt flashed in the corner of her eye. It almost looked like... But, it couldn't be. It *couldn't* be!

"Applefoot. Your opponent will be Applefoot."

MWAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH CLIFFIEEEEEEE!

Sorry about three hours ago I had brownies and cookie dough ice cream. Ya gotta cut me some slack, I'm beggin' ya!

Lol. I. Am. Exhausted! 😴 Middle school is hard for a sixth grader!!! 😩 Plus I had NINETY MINUTES of karate two hours afterwards, and some of you will know that I got freaked out because I thought there was a robber in my house xD

Well... HA! HA HA HA... The next chapter will involve looooots of drama! And the Oakpaw-Goldleaf-Sunpaw fight will come up soon.

AAH THERE WAS A.. SUNLEAF (???) FIGHT!!!!!!! NOOO!!!! And I have something planned for Brightsky *Le evil grin* So watch out! 😏

Bye!

~ ✧ 🐱 ✧ Rainfeather 🐱 ✧ 🐱

Chapter Twenty Two

A single thought slid through Sunpaw's mind as she watched Applefoot step into the arena. *What is she doing here?*

She'd always thought of Applefoot as not nice. Not at all her favorite cat, and she hated her. But she didn't think Applefoot would train in the Dark Forest. It was an evil place, and Applefoot had always seemed loyal, if a little bad tempered and nasty. Of course... Sunpaw knew about Moonpaw. But she didn't think that was true. Moonpaw had probably been killed by a fox or something.

Applefoot crouched, her supple muscles tense and hard as stone. Sunpaw watched her movements, looking for the usual, tell-tale signs if an attack. "Go!" Lionscar shouted.

At once, Applefoot leaped forward, stretching out to bowl Sunpaw over. Sunpaw rolled onto her back. She was exposing her belly, but she had to fight off the silver she cat. *Would she kill me?*

She knew Cinderpaw would say yes. And deep down in her gut, she knew it too. She knew Applefoot had seen Goldleaf continuously coming up to her and trying to talk to her. But she wasn't going to talk to him. She wouldn't and she couldn't. She couldn't just back down. Especially after the fight just a few hours earlier.

Sunpaw felt Applefoot's claws scoring down her belly. She unsheathed her claws and slashed at Applefoot's sides; blood pooled around her but Applefoot didn't stop. Sunpaw rolled over. *Maybe I can trick her.* She lay crouched for a heartbeat. "Is the match over already?" Drawled a voice. "Sunpaw, get up. Applefoot, off her. The match is-"

Sunpaw exploded upwards, back flipping and kicking out with her hind legs to catch Applefoot in the ribs. She landed neatly on her back and swiped at her head, then hopped off before Applefoot could retaliate. She shot a glance up at Lionscar, still standing on his rock. He was nodding approvingly.

Sunpaw turned her attention back to the battle. Applefoot was getting to her paws, her eyes full of rage. She turned to Sunpaw, and Sunpaw saw her pelt was free from injuries, save for the ones she had just received now. *Where was she during the battle?*

Sunpaw snarled and watched carefully as Applefoot padded around her. Suddenly she lunged at Sunpaw, landing on her back. Sunpaw was ready for her. She bucked and threw her off, but not until Applefoot had landed a few hard blows to her fur. One hit a wound that had not quite healed and she shrieked. Applefoot got to her paws and Sunpaw raced forward. *Maybe I can catch her unawares*. She leaped onto the silver tabby's back and sliced at her muzzle. Applefoot reached up a front paw and hooked Sunpaw's paw out from underneath her.

Pain shot through Sunpaw like a hot bolt of white fire. Applefoot had hooked her injured paw! It throbbed as if the whole of HollyClan had trampled over it. She yowled, and knew she needed to finish the fight quickly. She scrambled to her paws, darted over to Applefoot, and slammed her way to her neck. She sliced a claw into the she cat's neck- not deep enough to kill, but hard. Applefoot collapsed and Sunpaw stepped back.

"Fight over," Lionscar meowed. "Step back."

Apolefoot staggered to her paws and Sunpaw stepped back, bent her head, and began grooming her fur. Applefoot stumbled out if the arena. Lionscar looked at her carefully. "Wake yourself up and go see your medicine cat."

"But what will I tell her?" Applefoot challenged. Lionscar smiled. "Make something up. You'll think of something."

As the end of the night drew near, one more group of cats padded out of the arena, and Lionscar stood. "Go back to your nests."

He disappeared off of the rock, and all the Dark Forest cats followed. Sunpaw darted a quick glance around and saw that the remaining cats were licking their wounds, and so she lapped at the flank would Applefoot had given her. She hadn't gotten much else, though so she closed her eyes. When she opened them, she was

alone in the apprentice den.

The day passed quickly. Sunpaw went on a hunting patrol around noon with Goldleaf, Applefoot, Skypelt, and Amberclaw. Applefoot was acting like the fight hadn't happened, but Sunpaw felt glares on her pelt coming from Applefoot. She knew the silver she cat was probably planning something but she didn't care. She went on the evening patrol later then retired to her nest.

But then a loud wail stopped her. She turned and hurried back outside. *What could be happening?*

Brightsky was splayed out in the clearing lifelessly. *Is she... Dead*? Next to her, Amberclaw was nudging her with his nose. He had been the one to wail. Silverstar was there too, standing on the Rock Pile with an expression of deep regret on her face. Sunpaw bounded over, expecting the worse. She placed a paw on Brightsky's flank.

She was dead.

Silverstar turned and climbed up onto the top of the Rock Pile. Her voice cracked as she called, "All cats old enough to climb Sky Tree gather beneath the Rock Pile for a Clan meeting."

The cats slowly filtered out of their dens. The smell of death lay in the air and Brightsky's body drew all eyes to her. "Featherpelt, would you like to speak?" Silverstar asked the gray tom. He stepped up to the top of the Rock Pile and said, "Brightsky had a deep wound to her neck. It... It wasn't likely that she would survive. She died."

Though he sounded and looked blank, Sunpaw suspected that he too was saddened by the deputy's death. He leaned against Amberclaw. "They were siblings," a voice whispered beside her. Sunpaw sighed when she realized it was Goldleaf. "Goldleaf, seriously. Go. Away."

The gray tom just looked at her sadly, the stars shining in his big golden eyes. Sunpaw looked away and walked over to Brightsky. She pushed her nose into her fur and sighed. "Farewell, Bightsky. We will miss you."

She turned and padded into her nest. She had no intention to sleep, although she was tired. She had to meet Oakpaw.

She curled up and let her eyes shut. She slowed her breathing, and waited for everyone to fall asleep. When she was sure that every cat had fallen asleep, she got out of her nest and crept quietly out of camp. The cats sitting vigil for Brightsky were still sitting there, so Sunpaw slipped out behind the apprentice den. Maybe she could find another way out.

After a few minutes of searching, she decided to just go through the dirtplace tunnel. She sped through the forest, darting quickly around trees, and finally came to the border where Oakpaw was waiting. She hid behind a tree, then darted forward. "Mr-row!"

Oakpaw jumped, then realized it was Sunpaw. "Sunpaw! Hi!" Sunpaw felt a little bubble of happiness rise in her at the sight of the tom. He leaped across the river and touched noses with her, standing on CloudClan territory.

"What's wrong?" Oakpaw asked. Throughout the past moon they had become close. Sunpaw sighed and sat down. "Brightsky died."

Oakpaw's amber eyes stretched wide. "What?"

"Yeah." Sunpaw nodded. Oakpaw sighed. Then he turned his face to hers. "You know, Sunpaw..."

"Yes?" Sunpaw mewed. Her heart quickened. "I really, really like you," Oakpaw confessed, his words tumbling over each other. "And... I just want to know... Do you like me too?"

Sunpaw couldn't move, she couldn't breathe. All she could think about or see was Oakpaw, his long, dark brown fur, his huge amber eyes, his warm, sweet scent. She opened her mouth. "Y-"

"What's going on here?" A figure stepped out from behind a tree.

AAH EVEN BETTER CLIFFIE!!!! Who can guess who it is? Dedication on the next chapter to the first person who can!

And the next chapter is probably going to take a bit of time to

come out, mainly because... IT'S THE LAST CHAPTER!!!! So you *really* want to get that *rude-o* who intruded on their PRIVATE time right!! XD

Oh, just a little thing- I had someone asking for me to dedicate them on my message board. I messaged them because I had no idea who the fudge they were and they said they are a silent reader of me.

Okay, all you silent readers- I just want to say, if you're going to ask me to dedicate you, or mention you or something, you need to let me know you're reading the book. And if you enjoy it. A vote wouldn't hurt either!

R.I.P Brightsky ;~; but it had to happen...

AND WHO WILL THE DEPUTY BE???? The end of the FINAL chapter will be amazing, I can tell you. :) The Goldleaf~Sunpaw~Oakpaw fight will be next chapter! Yay!

Thank you for reading this not very good book. Message me if you want me to read any of your books!

~✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Chapter Twenty Three

It was Goldleaf.

Sunpaw stumbled to her paws, staring at him. "G-Goldleaf, I-"

Goldleaf flicked his tail. "Save it, Sunpaw. I already know. Don't you think I'd noticed you slipping out of camp? I followed you because I had to know."

Hurt flashed in his eyes. "I had to know why you didn't like me anymore. And I guess I found out why. Come on."

"No, Goldleaf, wait," Sunpaw meowed. She looked at the warrior's gray pelt, well groomed, and his yellow eyes, bright as stars, and yet collapsing. "I... I..."

Sunpaw couldn't say it. She fell silent, and Oakpaw sprang to his paws. "She's mine, Goldleaf!" He snarled. His eyes were blazing with anger. "You had your chance, but you chose Applefoot."

"How did you know that?" Goldleaf shot back. Sunpaw froze and very slowly, she glanced at Oakpaw. The dark brown tom was stiff, his fur fluffed up. "How did you know that?" Goldleaf asked, his voice quieter. Above Sunpaw, the night sky stretched out endlessly. "Well- um-"

"Silverstar announced it at the last Gathering!" Sunpaw blurted out. Inwardly she was glad that Goldleaf hadn't been at last moons' Gatehering, because Silverstar had done no such thing. Goldleaf shrugged. "Alright, but Sunpaw, come with me. We have to get back to camp."

"No!" Oakpaw snarled. "She's coming back to FlowerClan, right Sunpaw?"

Sunpaw remembered two nights before when she and Oakpaw had made plans for the future, but she had thought it was all in fun. She

had said she would join FlowerClan, and Oakpaw had promised to make her his deputy when he became leader. Had he really been serious?

Yet how should she choose Goldleaf? Especially when he was Applefoot's mate. "What about Applefoot?" She asked. "What will she think? And why do you care at all if you love her?"

Goldleaf scuffed his paws on the ground. "Sunpaw, I was only doing that to protect you. How do you think Applefoot would've reacted if I showed how much I love you? She would've killed you, Sunpaw. I was trying to protect you."

Sunpaw believed him. Easily, effortlessly, simply, she believed Goldleaf. But Oakpaw was still standing there, and no matter what, she couldn't stay with with him.

"Oakpaw," she meowed slowly. "You're a great cat. But we can't keep meeting here. It's against the warrior code, and I'm almost always exhausted afterwards. I'm sorry."

Oakpaw took a step back. "Wow, Sunpaw. I really thought... I thought you loved me. I guess I was wrong."

He turned to Goldleaf and pawed the ground angrily, his claws scraping against the wet mud from the river. "I hate you!" He yowled. "I'll never forgive you for this, Goldleaf."

He turned, leaped back across the river, and disappeared, streaking across the moonlit meadow. Sunpaw turned to Goldleaf. "Come on," she murmured. "Let's go home."

✧🐱✧

Silverstar stood at the top of the Rock Pile a few hours later. She had called the Clan together just after Brightsky had been buried. *To choose a new deputy, maybe?*

Sunpaw wondered who it would be. Maybe Amberclaw. Or Greenflower. They were both good warriors. Or maybe even Skypelt!

"As you know, our deputy Brightsky has been killed, and it is time to choose a new deputy. I say these words before the spirit of Brightsky so that she may hear and approve my choice." Her tail flicked and she looked to the back of the group of cats. "My deputy will be Applefoot."

Yes! It's finally over and it has a CLIFFIE! ;D

Thank you, everyone, for reading this, you have no idea how much it means to me <3 I love you all *virtual hug*

Just some stuff you should know:

~ The next book should probably be started around next weekish. Hopefully. Between homework and writing the allegiances *shudder* I dunno when I will be able to get a chapter out. But we'll see, we'll see.

~ The cover may not be out for a few days. I need to work on it.

Love you all! So so much! :D

~✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Okay one more thing

Hey everyone! Just one more thing. A Wattpad friend of mine, Elaina (@_Elaina_) is having a warrior cats writing contest! Me and a bunch of other people have entered, but we need more voters! So if you could, please look up @_Elaina_ And find her warrior cats writing contest! It's a lot of fun but the highest votes someone got was 2. That was @Kaylin_WC (No surprises there lol). I got one vote, but I wasn't eliminated. Please please look this up and vote people! Okay thanks!

Argh something again

Oh fudge... 1K VIEWS! YAAAAAY! This is amazing ;D

Comment below any ideas you want me to do as a thank you book! Seriously. Any ideas comment below!

Love ya!

~ ✧🐱✧ Rainfeather ✧🐱✧

Announcement

Wow, I'm back on SiS, and geez, it's weird, haha. I'm so used to typing in different names, haha.

I'll refer to old names for a sense of no spoilers here. Kapiesh?

As the story of Sunpaw is drawing to a close (I know- it's sad *sniffle*), I think it's finally time to go back and edit. I wrote this over eight months ago so I think it's safe to say my writing was pretty awful, haha. Haha. Stop saying haha, Holly.

You'll know I'm done editing a chapter when it says "{Edited}" next to the chapter name. Be aware that I will be not only checking for grammar and spelling mistakes but also strengthening the plot and developing the characters more. There may be some plot changes that will affect the other books. I'll try to make these as minimal as possible, but they must happen.

There will probably be a lot more dialogue. And maybe new characters. Who knows what I'll come up with?

Thanks for reading and just staying on this crazy roller coaster of a book saga. You guys are all very important to me, especially the people like @Swift_Jay and @eaglepaw54 who have been reading and supporting me since the very beginning. You guys rock!

Ready to edit,

~Rainfeather